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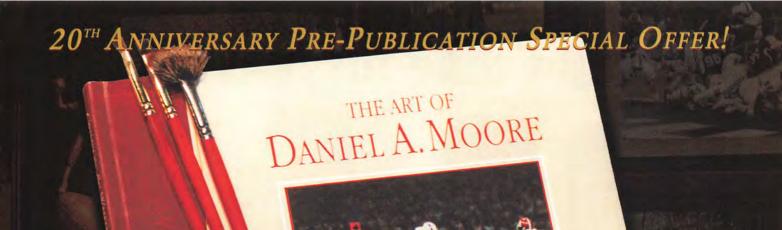
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A service of 'BAMA Magazine 2116 8th Street Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401 (205) 345-5074

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Publishing Information

'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE (USPS 489-470; ISSN 0195-0975) is published monthly for ten months from August to May by College Sports Publications, Inc., 2116 8th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401. Editorial office is located at 2116 8th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401-2134.

POSTMASTER: Send change of address to 'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE, P.O. Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0054.

Periodicals postage paid at Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and at additional mailing office. Subscription rate is \$35.00 per year. Foreign subscriptions \$10.00 per additional. Change of address: Six weeks advance notice, and old address as well as new required. Address all correspondence to: Post Office Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35486-0054. Not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or photographs unless accompanied by return postage. Copyright © 1999 College Sports Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

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College Sports Publishers Association

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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

Contents

On The Cover: Shaun Alexander is making headway towards becoming the first Heisman Trophy winner in Alabama history. He is one of the nominees for the Alabama Team of the 1990s, to be selected by Bama fans. See Page 16.

Barry Fikes Photo



Page 8

Athletics Director Search:

Who Will Lead Bama Into 2000?

University President Andrew Sorenson asked for the resignation of Bob Bockrath, the first man the rookie president appointed to be Alabama's director of athletics. Now Sorenson is trying again. The next athletics director will be hard-pressed to do many things as well as did Bockrath. by Kirk McNair

Marvin Constant:

Part Of The Future At Linebacker

12

Redshirt freshman middle linebacker Marvin Constant was expected to begin getting playing experience at that critical position this fall. Instead, circumstances have made him the starter. by J.E. Lisby



Page 12

Freddie Milons

Mr. Smooth Of Receiving Corps

Sophomore wide receiver Freddie Milons has been the pass-catching leader for the Tide in just his sophomore season. He wants to see his name throughout the Bama record book. by Chris Olds

The Fans Select:

Time To Choose Team Of Decade

16

Part of Alabama's football tradition is followers of the Crimson Tide participating. One way Bama fans have participated for the past 30 years is to choose each Alabama Team of the Decade. It's time to pick the Crimson Tide team of the 1990s.



Page 14

Swimming & Diving Outlook:

There's A Feeling Of Excitement

20

Alabama has a new head coach for men's and women's swimming and diving in Don Wagner. There seems to be a new confidence in the air as the Crimson Tide prepares for the 1999-2000 season.

by Andrew Varble II

Prep Prospects:

Tide Recruiters Look Far And Wide

23

Here's a look at some of the big men-offensive and defensive linemen, tight ends, and linebackersfrom around the Southeast who have been linked with the Crimson Tide in football recruiting circles.

by James Edwards



Page 20

Early Signees:

Big Names Expected To Join Tide

27

Most of the attention will be on signees joining the Crimson Tide men's program of Mark Gottfried, but Gerald Wallace and Mario Austin aren't the only big names who will sign at Alabama in the early signing period November 10-17. by Kirk McNair

The Departments

Scorecard

1999-2000 Alabama Winter Sports Schedules 28

Football Opponents' Schedules & Results

BAMA SCORECARD

No To Jacksonville

Assistant Head Football Coach and Recruiting Coordinator Ronnie Cottrell has been mentioned for the head coaching vacancy at Jacksonville State. Cottrell issued a statement prior to Bama's game against Tennessee acknowledging that he had been contacted regarding the job, but that he is "perfectly happy" and plans to stay at Alabama.

"Goose" Remembered

Alabama football players will wear a small black heart decal with the word "Goose" on the backs of their helmets the rest of this year in memory of long-time Alabama trainer and administrator Jim Goostree. Goostree, a native of Tennessee who had two degrees from the University of Tennessee, began work as Alabama's trainer in 1957. When Paul Bryant came to Alabama as head football coach and athletics director the next year, he retained Goostree, who held his post as trainer through the Bryant era. He then became an associate athletics director before retiring a few years ago. He was particularly remembered for his part in preparing Alabama football teams for games against his alma mater and he began the tradition of passing out cigars to Tide players following wins over Tennessee. Ironically, he died of a heart attack at the age of 69 the week of this year's Tennessee game.

Alabama also lost a former assistant coach when Lew Bostick (who had been an assistant to Frank Thomas in 1942, 1944 and 1946-67) died. Bostick was better known for his work in establishing Alabama's intramu-

ral programs.

Robert Scott

Alabama Assistant Basketball Coach Robert Scott is weakened by the chemotherapy he is undergoing in his battle against stomach cancer, but he's doing all he can to keep active as a member of the Crimson Tide staff. The former star player has been attending practice when he can, and when he can't he gets videotapes of the practice and critiques them. At practices he works from a courtside chair and communicates through fellow Assistant Coach Tom Kelsey.

Legends Dinner

Tickets are currently on sale for the annual Hyatt Regency Atlanta SEC Coaches Luncheon and BellSouth SEC Legends Dinner, to be held Friday, December 3 at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta. The two events are held in conjunction with the SEC Football Championship Game, which will be played December 4 at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

The head coaches from the Eastern and Western Division Champions will team up with ESPN's Ron Franklin at the lunch for an in-depth question-and-answer session providing thoughts on the season and their teams quest for the SEC Championship.

A former football standout from each SEC school will be honored at the dinner. Among

the gridiron greats who will be honored this year include a Heisman Trophy winner, eight first-team All-Americas, 10 All-SEC performers and three members of the College Football Hall of Fame.

These legends will be honored before the start of the SEC Championship Game at the Georgia Dome and will also make appearances during SEC FanFare, held December 3-4 at the Georgia World Congress Center.

Tickets are \$25 for the lunch and \$85 for the dinner and can be ordered by contacting the SEC Ticket Office at (205) 458-3015 or (800) 732-4849. Tickets may also be purchased on-line at www.secsports.com. All public tickets to the SEC Football Championship Game have been sold.

Representing Alabama will be legendary running back Johnny Musso, who starred for the Crimson Tide 1969-71. Musso was an All-America and All-SEC performer and selected SEC Player of the Year in 1971. He is a member of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, was named to the Alabama Team of the Century in 1992, and was selected to the SEC Quarter-Century Team (1950-74).

Basketball Adds Game

Alabama's men's basketball finally added another home game when Weber State was put on the schedule for 7 p.m. Friday, November 19. That's the first home game for the Tide. Weber State was a 1999 NCAA participant. Last year Bama had one of its biggest victories when the Tide upset Weber State, 84-80, in overtime in the Pearl Harbor Classic in Honolulu. Weber State is one of 12 teams on Bama's schedule that advanced to post-season play last year.

For the second consecutive year, Alabama is opening the season on the road. After playing exhibition games in Coleman Coliseum on November 5 and November 8, Alabama will open the season at the Kiel Center in St. Louis, Missouri, in the Earth Grains Classic. Bama will play Northern Iowa on November 13 and St. Louis on November 14. St. Louis is coached by Lorenzo Lomar, who was an assistant with Alabama Head Coach Mark Gottfried at UCLA.

The home schedule includes a Thanksgiving weekend tournament, "The Alabama Tradition." The tournament's name is drawn from Alabama's excellent basketball past, which includes 33 NBA draft picks, six Southeastern Conference regular season championships, six SEC Tournament championships, and 14 NCAA appearances. Alabama will play Centenary in the first round of the tournament on Friday. November 26, then play either LaSalle or High Point in the finals on Saturday, November 27.

Alabama's "home" schedule also includes a game in Huntsville's Von Braun Arena against Tennessee-Chattanooga on December 18.

For ticket information call the Alabama Athletics Ticket Office at (205) 348-6111.

Gymnasts Host Regional

Alabama Gymnastics Coach Sarah Patterson says the most important event of the season each year is the NCAA Regional Meet. That's the competition that determines if a team makes the top 12 teams for the NCAA Championship.

And so it is of some importance that Alabama will be hosting this year's NCAA Region 4 meet on April 1. Regional winners qualify for the NCAA Championships, April 17, 15 in Paire 14dae.

13-15 in Boise, Idaho.

Alabama has won regional titles in 14 of the past 16 seasons.

Hall Of Famer

In most years, former Alabama athletes and coaches dominate induction ceremonies of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. Not the Class of 2000. Of seven new inductees, only one has a Crimson Tide background.

Marty Lyons, an All-America and co-captain of the 1978 National Championship team, will be honored at the induction banquet on Saturday, February 26, at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center.

Hank Aaron Stadium

The University of South Alabama is counting on help from Alabama fans to set an alltime attendance record for a college baseball game in Mobile. The chances of that happening are excellent, considering Bama's following.

It was earlier announced that the March 28 game between South Alabama and Alabama will be played in Mobile's Hank Aaron Stadium, home to the minor league Mobile BayBears. Last year South Alabama hosted Mississippi State and drew 3,347 fans at the minor league park. This year South Alabama hopes to break its home attendance record of 4,407, set when Bama visited two years ago.

"We hope the fans will really get behind this, the South Alabama fans, the Alabama fans and make this a sellout," said Steve Kittrell who is entering his 17th season as USA's head coach. "I've never seen us sell a game out before. We've come close but it would sure be nice to have 6,000 or 7,000

fans show up for this game."

South Alabama has had one of the best college programs in the country for years. Last year, USA captured its ninth Sun Belt title and finished the year with a 39-20 record while Alabama has returned to national prominence under Coach Jim Wells, rolling most recently to a 53-16 record and third-place finish in the College World

Alabama leads the overall series with South Alabama 45-42. The Crimson Tide's last three visits to Mobile have been close encounters. Alabama won 10-9 in 1998, USA won 8-7 in 1997 and Alabama won 1-0 in 1996.

Ticket information for the game will be released at a future date.

He's Number Three

Alabama Assistant Director of Media Relations Barry Allen has been named third vice president of the National Collegiate Baseball Writer's Association. This puts Allen in line to become president of the organization for the 2002-2003 college baseball season.

The 1999-2000 NCBWA president is Charles Bloom, associate commissioner and director of media relations at the Southeastern Conference office. Other officers for the upcoming academic year are Bo Carter (director of media relations, Big 12 Conference), John Askins (president, Super Smith Award), Ken Krsolovic (sports information director, St. Joseph's University), Russell Anderson (director of media relations, Conference USA) and Kip Karlson (media relations, Oregon State).

Grandslammers Score

The Alabama Grand Slammers hit a home run in their effort to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The Grand Slammers donated \$20,290 to the American Cancer Society as part of its entry into the 1999 Tuscaloosa County Relay for Life.

The fund-raiser was held in conjunction with Relay for Life, the national signature event of the American Cancer Society. The event was held Friday, May 7 and Saturday, May 8 at the University of Alabama Student Recreation Center. The Grand Slammers were one of 70 teams to compete in the fund-raiser. Teams are asked to sign up for the event and raise a minimum of \$100 per team member. The teams are required to come up with their own ideas to raise money for this worthy cause.

"I would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's Relay for Life and for helping the Alabama Grand Slammers make such a generous donation," Barry Allen, Grand Slammers Team Captain and Assistant Director of Media Relations for The University, said. "The response was overwhelming and greatly appreciated. We set some lofty goals, but had no idea of the success that we would have. I am grateful to everyone for allowing us to make such a donation for a very worthy cause."

The Grand Slammers accepted pledges and donations on behalf of the Crimson Tide baseball teams home run total this past season. Pledges in the amount of 10 cents per home run to one dollar per home run were accepted. The club also received two very generous donations that made this year's efforts a record-setting success.

Major League Baseball recently completed a similar project, spearheaded by St. Louis Cardinals' slugger Mark McGwire. The project, CapCure, raised money for each home run hit in the majors between June 20-25, 1999. All the proceeds were given to assist in prostate cancer research. New York Yankees Manager Joe Torre, a recent prostate cancer survivor, is also a spokesman for CapCure.

The Crimson Tide baseball team led the SEC with 120 home runs, which were the third-most home runs in Alabama history. The Alabama Grand Slammers contributed almost 15 per cent of the record setting \$142,000 raised at the 1999 Tuscaloosa County Relay for Life.

Media Awards

The Alabama Athletic Media Relations Office earned six awards, including three "Best in the Nation" accolades, for its publications from the College Sports Information Directors Association or CoSIDA. The awards were announced at the annual CoSIDA convention.

The 1999 gymnastics media guide, edited by Assistant Media Relations Director Roots Woodruff, was named Best in the Nation. It marks the third time in the past four years that Alabama's gymnastics book has been named the nation's best. The gymnastics media guide's cover also earned "Best in the Nation" honors. Woodruff and Assistant Gymnastics Coach Bryan Raschilla designed the cover, which depicted gymnasts Gwen Spidle, Mandy Chapman, Robin Hawkins and Dara Stewart. Using his background in graphic design, Raschilla created the cover digitally using Athletic Department Photographer Kent Gidley's photos.

Brian Morgan brought three awards home to The Capstone. The women's basketball media guide was named fourth best in the nation. The women's basketball game programs, created by Morgan and Crimson Tide Sports Marketing's Margaret Ann Praytor, earned a pair of awards, including "Best in The Nation" for cover design and second in the nation for the overall publication.

The Crimson Tide also earned "Best in the District" recognition for its women's softball poster, designed by Becky Hopf. Alabama, along with Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee, is in District 4.

In the decade of the '90s, Alabama's Media Relations Department has earned 60 CoSIDA publication awards, including a dozen "Best in the Nation" honors.

Dive In

On Friday night prior to the Alabama-LSU football game, at 8 p.m. November 5, there will be a diving exhibition in the University Aquatic Center. Alabama Diving Coach Pat Greenwell, who has been SEC Coach of the Year a half dozen times, has arranged the exhibition.

There is no charge for the event, which will include divers from both the Alabama and LSU swimming and diving teams and a handful of celebrity divers, including members of the United States National Team and Olympic qualifiers.

Killers

Alabama volleyball players Monica Morales and Michelle Green both eclipsed the 1,000 kill mark during the weekend of October 15-17. Morales reached the plateau with a 15-kill performance against Arkansas. Green followed her into the club two days later with a 28-kill showing against LSU.

Meanwhile, junior setter Allison Lange became only the third Tide player to record 3,000 assists in her career.

Back At Practice

Women's basketball signee Taquilla Allen, a junior college transfer, missed the first week of practice because of surgery to have a rod inserted into her lower leg because of a stress fracture. She is expected to challenge for a starting job on the perimeter for the Tide.

Bama will be on display for the first time this season in an exhibition game at 7 p.m.

November 2 against the Mississippi AAU Stars.

Top Tens

The Alabama women's golf team of Coach Betty Palmer finished in the top ten in two of its fall tournaments, including an impressive second place finish in the prestigious Ohio State Lady Buckeye Invitational. Junior Paul Carter matched a career-best finish with her second place finish individually. All-SEC sophomore Sarah Johnston leads the Tide with a 75.88 stroke average.

Life Skills

The University of Alabama's CHAMPS/LifeSkills program has been recognized as a "Program of Excellence" by the Division 1A Athletic Director's Association. Alabama joined the University of Georgia, University of Kentucky, University of Tennessee, Clemson University and Georgia Tech as recipients of the prestigious recognition for 1999-2000. This marks the third year for Division 1A programs to be honored with the "Program of Excellence" distinction.

The "Program of Excellence" is, in essence, a lifetime award, designed to recognize Division 1A athletics programs that have established student-athlete welfare as the cornerstone of their operating principles.

"This is a tremendous honor for The University of Alabama," said Karin Lee, Alabama's Director of LifeSkills. "It is a true reflection of the commitment of our administration, coaches and student-athletes to the LifeSkills program. We look forward to continuing and improving this important program in the future."

The CHAMPS award honors universities that have dedicated staff, financial resources and creative energies to improve the total college experience for their student-athletes. The CHAMPS program was created in 1992 as an initiative that assures that schools are not "using and discarding" student-athletes, but rather are generating productive citizens in our society.

"Student-athletes attend college to excel in life, not just sports," said Gene Hooks, Director, 1A Directors' CHAMPS/LifeSkills Program. "Athletic programs today must focus on the total person, not just the athlete. The 1A CHAMPS program provides the tools and opportunities needed to develop well-rounded student-athletes who are prepared for a life during and after their college careers. It is our goal to remove the old stigma of 'using and discarding' athletes. A good CHAMPS program gives every student-athlete an opportunity to excel in life."

All CHAMPS/LifeSkills initiatives, active on 98 percent of Division 1A campuses, build their programs around five commitments: Academic Excellence, Athletic Excellence, Personal Development, Community Service and Career Development. The Program of Excellence provides a CHAMPS model that is centered around the well-being of the student-athlete and any school that is honored with the award has demonstrated a total commitment to their student-athletes in all five areas.

Who Will Lead Bama Into 2000?

by Kirk McNair

Bockrath will be tougher to follow than many expect, but real task is finding candidates

labama President Dr. Andrew Sorenson is at it again. Three years after surprising everyone with the selection of Bob Bockrath as director of athletics, Sorenson fired Bockrath and put a committee in place to help the president find a successor.

Although never popular, Bockrath leaves an impressive list of accomplishments. He oversaw the completion of the expansion of Bryant-Denny Stadium, renovation of Coleman Coliseum, expansion of Sewell-Thomas Baseball Stadium, and construction of the new softball facility. He instituted Tide Pride for basketball. He hired Head Football Coach Mike DuBose. fired David Hobbs as basketball coach, and brought in Mark Gottfried to replace Hobbs, all popular moves. He was on watch when Alabama received full certification of its athletics program from the NCAA. And when there was a hint of impropriety by an assistant basketball coach, Bockrath moved decisively, earning congratulations from the NCAA Infractions Committee. Particularly notable in recent weeks was another Bockrath plum: negotiating most of Alabama's big football games out of Birmingham's Legion Field and into Tuscaloosa's Bryant-Denny Stadium.

The one thing Bockrath could never accomplish was convincing anyone that he was happy to be at Alabama. However, any bad feelings he may have should be soothed by The University's usual largess to disgruntled employees. Bockrath's original contract would have been renewable until 2004 with an annual cash compensation of \$212,000. (The contract also called for a number of bonuses based on various team performance criteria that would nearly double the salary.) Under the terms of the buyout, Bockrath will begin receiving compensation of



Mal Moore

\$336,000 over two years beginning July 1, 2000, until and unless he has attained a position as athletics director at a Division I school.

Finus Gaston, who has been serving as senior associate athletics director, was named interim director. Gaston announced early in the search period that he would not be a candidate for the position. He will be retained as the senior associate athletics director when a new director is named.

Once upon a time there was a hot urgency to get the new athletics director in place. That's because everyone was convinced that someone needed to be in position to fire DuBose and bring in a new man, perhaps Butch Davis from Miami, perhaps Frank Beamer from Virginia Tech, perhaps Tommy Bowden from Clemson. The only thing that was sure at that time was that it needed to be done before the middle of October. Now that DuBose's teams have won some games that have

produced a warm, fuzzy feeling in Bama fans, the pace of athletics director selection seems to have slowed. Nevertheless, the new man could be in place very quickly, perhaps by the time this is read. Earlier it had been revealed that Sorenson hoped to have three names from which to choose by mid-November.

Sorenson put together an impressive search committee to provide him with the names from which he would select Bockrath's successor. The qualifications and the job description he listed for the new athletics director were precisely, word-for-word, the same as those in 1996.

John England, a member of the Board of Trustees who was recently appointed to the state Supreme Court, is chairman of the selection committee. One other trustee. Peter Lowe, is also on the committee. Among others are former football players Lee Roy Jordan and Joe Kelley, both very successful businessmen, and Thomas Hill, currently a student coach after his playing career was ended by injury. Also, those on the committee who might be familiar with the job an athletics director could be expected to do are Tide Head Baseball Coach Jim Wells and Faculty Chairman of Athletics Gene Marsh. E.C. "Buddy" Powell, Jr., a prominent Tuscaloosa businessman and father of a current Bama football player, was selected. Filling out the committee are Phillip B. Young of Montgomery, president-elect of the National Alumni Association: Pam Parsons, interim vice president for university advancement; and Margaret Garner, director of nutrition education and services in the department of family medicine.

A lthough there are no public reports on the progress being made by the search committee, it ap-

pears the two primary candidates are two who were in contention in 1996. They are Mal Moore, currently serving as associate athletics director, and Wright Waters, the commissioner of the Sun Belt Conference. Both were interviewed by the search committee in late October.

The early favorite to win the job was Dave Hart, a former Alabama basketball player who has spent his life in athletics administration. He is currently athletics director at Florida State. However, when Hart, along with Southeastern Conference Executive Associate Commissioner Mark Womack, and Gaston removed their names from consideration, it became something of a guessing game as to whether the search committee could even come up with a third name.

Those who have taken their names out of consideration for the job did so for various reasons. While there were insinuations that Hart had to have the job without delay if he was to be considered and that he was upset that his name became public, it is more likely that his current contract—a ten-year deal worth \$382,000 per year—had something to do with it. The next Alabama athletics director is expected to earn between \$250,000 and \$350,000 per year.

If there is one minus to the job at Alabama now it is likely the new Athletics Oversight Committee established by the Board of Trustees. Although the trustees insist they will not meddle in the affairs of Bama athletics, there's nothing to keep them from changing the rules. Most who would want to be athletics directors would prefer to report to just one person, the president. And, true, it could be that some candidates might not want to report to the current president of The University.

Moore, Waters, Hart, Womack and Gaston are all alumni of The University. One other name that has surfaced (though barely) as a possible candidate is former Tide quarterback Steadman Shealey, now an attorney. There has been a strong push from some quarters, notably one trustee, for Gene Hallman, the 39-year-old executive director of the Alabama

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BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide Magazine (Publication No. 489-470), published monthly, except June and July with an annual subscription rate of \$35.00, at 2116 8th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401. The general business offices of the publisher are located at 2116 8th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401.

The names and addresses of the publisher and editor are: Publisher: College Sports Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35486-0054. Editor: Kirk McNair, P.O. Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35486-0054.

The owner is College Sports Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35486-0054, and Kirk McNair and Lynne McNair, 3477 Arcadia Drive, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404.

The known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities are: None.

The average number of copies each issue during the preceding 12 months:

A. Total number of copies printed (net press run) 17,158 B. Paid Circulation

Paid and/or Requested Mail subscriptions
 9,777

2. Sales through dealers and carriers street vendors and counter sales 2.734 C. Total paid circulation 12,511 D. Free distribution by mail, samples, complimentary, and other free copies 331 E. Free distribution outside the mail 331 F Total free distribution G. Total distribution 12.842 H. Copies not distributed 4,316 1 Total 17,158 Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation 97

The average number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date:

A. Total number of copies printed (net press run) 17,128

B. Paid Circulation

1. Paid and/or Requested Mail subscriptions 9,562

2. Sales through dealers and carriers street vendors and counter sales 6,238 15,800 C. Total paid circulation D. Free distribution by mail, samples, complimentary, and other free copies 335 E. Free distribution outside the mail 0 F. Total free distribution 335 G. Total distribution 16.135 H. Copies not distributed 993 17,128

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Sports Foundation. He has no University of Alabama background and no experience in college athletics, but he has an excellent resume academically and in marketing and management.

Some other names that have been mentioned are current athletics directors Jim Weaver of Virginia Tech, Jim Copeland of Southern Methodist, and Tom Jurich of Louisville. As for a darkhorse, the name of Mississippi State Athletics Director Larry Templeton has been floated, but that might raise an NCAA spectre with Sorenson.

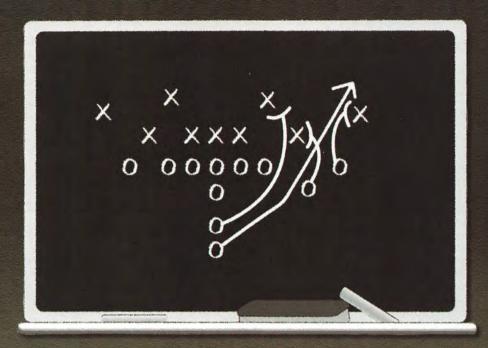
Moore is thought to be the favorite with the search committee, but there is a suspicion that Sorenson has a bias against any former Alabama football player holding the position of athletics director.

Moore's background is precisely what appeals to the majority of the search committee. Although Bockrath had a football background as a player and coach, as an administrator he was not considered football friendly. The majority of those on the committee believe football needs propping up in terms of facilities (particularly a new weight room) and recruiting budget (the football program felt it was nickeled and dimed under Bockrath when it came to having recruiting tools). Moore is thought to be the man who will be able to give athletics fund-raising the boost it needs to take care of football. A Moorerun department is seen as one that would nurture the golden goose so that it could, as has historically been the case, financially care for all other sports. The Bockrath approach was seen as one that attempted to serve other sports at the expense of football.

Waters also has excellent qualifications, though not specifically in athletics department administration. He has been commissioner of two conferences (Southern and Sun Belt) and served for a time as director of Crimson Tide Sports Marketing, the company that handles Alabama broadcasts, programs and other promotions. He is viewed as a man who could revive Alabama's influence with the Southeastern Conference.



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Part Of The Future At Linebacker

by J.E. Lisby

Redshirt freshman among up and coming defenders

labama has had great football players at virtually every position over the years. Quarterbacks, in part because of the success of so many Alabama alumni in Super Bowl games, have frequently been the positon of most attention. But a little thought gives Bama a claim to being "Linebacker U." The names are familiar to all Crimson Tide followers: Lee Roy Jordan, Woodrow Lowe, Barry Krauss, E.J. Junior, Cornelius Bennett, Derrick Thomas, Dwayne Rudd. Unfortunately, in recent years the reputation has diminished somewhat. But watching Bama's young linebackers in early-season games gives reasonable expectation that the day may return soon when Alabama and Linebacker U are spoken in the same breath.

One of those young linebackers is Marvin Constant, who had been expected to go through a transition period this year. Constant had been signed by Alabama out of Tuscaloosa's Central High School, but though strong for an incoming freshman, he needed a year to work on flexibility and to adjust to a relatively new position. Most expected that in his second year at The Capstone the redshirt freshman would be used primarily for depth off the bench.

Then Travis Carroll, last year's starting middle linebacker for the Tide, announced his decision to transfer to Florida. Overnight Constant went from backup to first string. And suddenly the pressures on this soft-spoken youngster increased exponentially.

Ellis Johnson, defensive coordinator and outside linebackers coach for the Tide, said, "Most of us probably expected Marvin to be a backup. Then all of a sudden Travis transfers and Marvin gets thrown into the starting position. He's done a good job meeting that challenge."

For Constant it was a welcome opportunity. "I knew there were doubters," he said. "I was just a redshirt freshman, but I was determined to step up and take the challenge head-on. I was prepared to work hard and hope that it turned out positive, and it did.

"Actually I was going into fall practice with the idea that I would start anyway, so (Carroll's) leaving didn't bother me. I've never played behind anybody in my life and I didn't intend to start now."

Constant will likely only get better in the future. But he's doing pretty well in the pre-

sent. Through the first part of the season Constant is ranked among the Tide's top five tacklers averaging about five tackles per game. In just his second game Marvin reached double figures in tackles with 10 stops versus Houston. Despite being substituted out in obvious passing situations, he has managed to break up a number of passes from his inside linebacker position. And in the Louisiana Tech game, Constant provided one of the few bright spots by blocking an extra point attempt.

His coaches have been pleasantly surprised with the production from their firstyear starter. As inside linebackers coach for Alabama, Jeff Rouzie works with Constant every day. "He's very coachable," Rouzie said. "He takes instruction and responds well. Marvin's a good learner and we've been very pleased with him so far this year."

At 6-1, 250 pounds, Constant brings excellent size and athleticism to the middle linebacker position. "He's made for the middle linebacker spot," Johnson said. "He does a really good job against the run. He's a physical player who competes with great effort."

Though he admits to harboring a secret desire to play tailback (he played the position in middle school before "growing" into a fullback). Constant thinks he's playing in the right slot. "My biggest asset at middle linebacker is my size and strength," he said. "I have the strength to take on fullbacks and the speed to go outside if I have to."

The middle linebacker position also involves a mental element. "Marvin actually lines us up as far as formation recognition," Rouzie said. "He does a good job with that and he's learning every day."

"The middle linebacker is like the quarterback of the defense," Constant said. "He sets the defense and calls signals. He knows where the ball is going, so it's up to me whether or not I make the play.

"You have to be able to react instinctively. From one second to the next you see the center, you see the pulling guard coming to block you. You've got to be last. When the ball moves, you've got to be right there moving with it."

And the best part about the position? "I like to hit," Constant said. "Personally, it's something I like to do. For me it's fun to go out and do it every day. I've been playing football and hitting for so long that it's pretty much second-nature. My biggest hit so far might have been the first play of the Houston game. I hit (the Cougar running-back) pretty good for a loss and it set the tempo for our defense."

onstant understands the stereotype that most fans have of the violent linebacker, but he brushes it off. "For me, when I'm on the field I'm laughing and

having fun," he said. "I don't think I'm mean. I'm just carrying out my assignments. I can go on the field and be one way and when I'm off the field I'm totally different. Changing back and forth isn't hard for me. I know when it's time to step up and play."

And off the field?

"Off the field it's just plain old me," Constant said. "I'm really pretty patient and laid back. I just like to have fun. I move in a small circle of friends. Most of my time is spent with my teammates except when I go to class and socialize with people there. But outside of that I keep pretty much to myself."

Mild-mannered student off the field. Ferocious tackler between the sidelines. Constant presents a study in contrasts, not the least of which is the ability to maintain calm in the midst of chaos.

Any coach will tell you that concentration is absolutely necessary to be successful. A distracted athlete is a beaten athlete. Southeastern Conference crowds make every stadium noise central. Surprisingly, Constant is unfazed. "I don't hear the fan noise," he said. "When I'm on the field it's just me, my teammates and the other team. I block out the distractions. I don't know how I do it, but I'm just able to tune everything out. It's just me and the game."

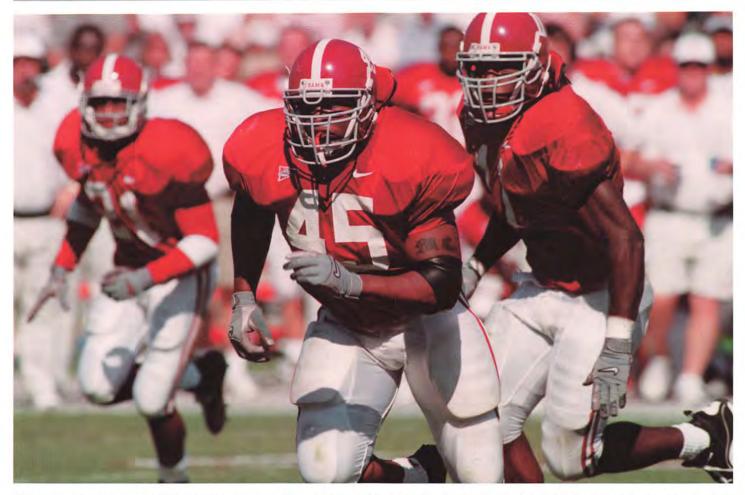
For anyone motivation can be a problem, and all the more so for a naturally strong and athletic young man with a quiet personality. But again, Constant defies the norm.

"Some kids you have to keep after," said Tide Head Strength and Conditioning Coach Terry Jones. "But not Marvin. He loves to work and he's been that way since he first arrived. I've known Marvin since the ninth grade and he's always been an athlete. He's always been dedicated in the weight room."

Constant acknowledges having a strong work ethic, but its source may surprise some. "I guess it comes from being a middle child," he said. "I had to be self-motivated because it seemed like my brother and my sister always got the attention. I just had to work on my own."

ost college athletes arrive on campus with a wealth of competitive sports in their backgrounds. Another mold broken. Despite being a state champion in track and field (shot put), Constant has always been a "one-sport" man. "I don't even watch sports on television other than football," he said. "I'll watch college football and a couple of high school games. I never much liked to watch sports, but I'd go out and play. But even then it was just football. I played it year-round. Playing football was just something I wanted to do."

And do it he did. Well enough to be one of the most highly recruited linebackers in the



Marvin Constant (45) was expected to be learning his craft as a back-up middle linebacker this season, but the redshirt freshman has taken over the position.

Barry Fikes Photo

South his senior year of high school. However, this was one star athlete who wasn't entirely thrilled with the circus that big-time recruiting has become.

"Recruiting was phone calls every night," Constant said. "Coaches on the phone one after another. Phone calls and letters. 'Come watch this game.' 'Come watch that game.' 'Come visit.'

"When I committed to Alabama, I thought the calls would stop. But they didn't stop. Why'd you do that?" 'Are you sure you don't want to change your mind?' People were trying to constantly talk me out of it. A lot of people just weren't going to accept it. They were going to fight to the very end. It went on and on and it never stopped until I actually signed."

So, should the process be changed? "No. A lot of people really enjoy it," Constant said. "It's a big experience for them. It's exciting going on the visits and getting the phone calls and a lot of athletes just love the whole recruiting process. But after you get so many, you do start getting tired."

All the attention did worry him, though. "It's not easy to keep your head on straight,"

Constant said. "You've just got to keep everything in perspective and realize that you're not the only person being recruited like that. There are kids all over America being told the same thing."

Since he was from Tuscaloosa and played high school ball in town, most observers probably suspected that Alabama's recruitment of Constant was an easy task. Not so. "Florida came pretty close to leading me astray," Constant said. "They worked very hard. Growing up I always liked the Gators. I always watched them play on Saturdays. But in the end I feel like I made the right decision. Alabama was close to home. They rely on defense. And Alabama has a great tradition of linebackers."

hat's a tradition that Constant hopes to enhance. He believes that all of the young talent at linebacker holds the promise of great things to come. "We're young at the position," he said. "Saleem (Rasheed), Darius (Gilbert), Victor (Ellis), Jeremy (Walker), Adam (Cox) and myself, we're all young. Hopefully, we'll get even better as we get used to working and com-

peting together. Things should really start to click.

"Coming into the season, a lot of people wondered about us. Will we be too young? Will we be able to do the job? We accepted that challenge. It feels great to know that as young as we are we can go out and perform with the best of them. We want to add a new chapter to that tradition."

A quick glance at the Tide depth chart yields plenty of evidence that Bama linebacking will only get better. No less than five underclassmen dot the two-deep roster. And the block of granite masquerading as a middle linebacker will likely help lead the way.

At this point Constant is pursuing only one individual goal. "I'd like to make All-SEC Freshman at linebacker," he said. "I'm really just trying to make it through the year, though. I don't even think about career goals, but I'd definitely like to play one day in the NFL. That would be nice."

Nice indeed. For Marvin and for Alabama. Because if he reaches that ultimate goal, Constant will almost certainly have helped reintroduce the tradition of "Linebacker U" to The Capstone.

Mr. Smooth Of Receiving Corps

by Chris Olds

After solid frosh season. he's now among leaders

Ithough Freddie Milons isn't the biggest, fastest or oldest member of the Crimson Tide receiving corps, he has established himself as a leader among the wideouts and as a presence in the offense for the Alabama football team.

Earlier this season, the 5-11, 183-pound sophomore flanker from Starkville, Mississippi, became the first Tide player since 1977 to record back-to-back 100-yard receiving games with his seven-catch, 109-yard performance against Arkansas and his 10-catch, 119-yard showing in Bama's 40-39 win over Florida. Then he became the first Alabama player ever to have three consecutive such games when he pulled in nine receptions for 133 yards against Ole Miss.

However, despite his success and the good numbers he has posted, Milons speaks in terms of team success.

(Freshman) Antonio Carter's development has helped me, but more importantly it has helped the whole offense," Milons said. "Shaun (Alexander) helps everybody because teams focus on him and they don't want to let number 37 beat them. When they cover Shaun on deep routes, and we do our thing, that's when (tight end) Terry Jones, Jr. comes in underneath. We are all helping each other out, and it's like a domino effect. Other teams really can't key on anyone because we are all having success at our positions."

While his one play as a quarterback has created the unquestionable highlight reel selection (he also had an efficiency rating of 984.4, a modest 840 points higher than Tide starting QB Andrew Zow, through the first five games), Milons said it is more meaningful than merely completing a crucial play in a

Besides returning punts and kicks for Bama, Milons has made his mark as a playmaker with a 66-yard touchdown pass to fellow receiver Jason McAddley in the fourth quarter of the Arkansas game. "It was fun, and it let me know that the coaches trusted me by putting the ball in my hands like that in the fourth quarter," said Milons, pausing before taking on a more serious tone. "I have always considered myself a team player, and whatever it takes to make this team win I want to be in there doing my part. If I get one catch and 12 blocks, as long as we are winning, I don't care.

Whatever the coaches ask me to do, 1

won't turn it down," he said. "I will try it. and, if I am having problems, I will tell them, but it's anything to help this team win.

Wide Receivers Coach Dabo Swinney said he has been pleased with the development of his sophomore receiver and his taking a vital place among a receiving corps laden with underclassmen.

"He has helped us tremendously," Swinney said. "We have made sure that he is part of the game plan, and he has responded. He's a guy that, when you get it to him, he can do something with it. I have been real pleased

Zow, also a sophomore, said he has enjoyed the emergence of another passing target and said Milons has made his life a lot easier inside and outside of the pocket.

"He's a playmaker and he has just come out," Zow said. "He's been getting the opportunities, and he's made them. He's the type of guy that we need in this offense, and we need to get him the ball as much as possible along with Antonio Carter, and, of course, Shaun (Alexander).

"He's the type of player that you have to watch out for," Zow said. "You can dump him the ball and he can go 60 yards, easy. If I am scrambling, he's right there, and he's one of the guys I look for.

Then Milons came to Alabama as a part of last season's highly touted freshman class, he was envisioned as a deep-threat alongside Tennessee recruit Eric Locke. Milons played in all 11 games catching 19 balls for 213 yards, while Locke started in three games and posed similar numbers, 14 receptions for 134 yards. After Locke's departure from Alabama last summer. that left Milons understanding the importance of his own contribution and concerned about the Tide's depth.

"His leaving was very drastic, very unexpected," Milons said. "I wish he wouldn't have, but, after he left, the focus during three-a-day practices turned to getting Antonio Carter ready. We knew (sophomore) Jason McAddley could step in and do the same thing because he had a year under his belt. The main thing we needed in this position was depth. A.C. was shaky the first few weeks, but now he has picked it up and we are right where we want to be."

McAddley, who is the speediest of the receivers and has a competitive track and field background, said Milons is the most elusive of the receivers.

"Freddie is more cat-quick and has good hands," McAddley said. "He is more of a threat because he can maneuver better since other receivers are bigger."

With Alabama's receivers emphasized more, and players like Milons stepping up in big games, tailback Shaun Alexander said it has alleviated pressure on him and the running game while making the whole team better.

"I am really excited about how the young receivers are playing. They have taken a lot of pressure off of me. It means a lot when we can throw the ball on first, second or third down and it could possibly be a touchdown or a big play. It feels great that they (Milons and Carter) are going to make some plays and get us closer for the score."

Alexander said Carter's improvements will make Milons more of a threat as another bigplay receiver for the Tide. "I'm really glad I stayed here this year, because this kid (Carter) is really going to help out Freddie.

While Carter is this year's freshman phenom of the receivers, Milons was no slouch coming out of high school. Milons was considered Mississippi's top quarterback and was second team All-America after a senior season that produced 14 touchdowns on more than 1,500 yards passing. Milons played sparingly as a receiver, but rushed for 1,976 yards and 30 TDs during his high school career.

Milons said the transition from having the ball on every play to special teams work and receiving hasn't been tough. In fact, he said he thrives on the one-on-one battle outside. "Being a wideout and getting open is much easier because you are not around offensive and defensive linemen where it is congested," Milons said. "I am out here by myself with one man to beat, and I am not going to let him hold me. It definitely makes

ost players' transitions to the pressures of college football aren't as easy as Milons has made it look. He said he hasn't thought about how far he has come, but only where he wants to be.

"I don't think it has really dawned on me. because I am still young, but there's not that much pressure," he said. "I think it is good to be a sophomore and have them call on me. I'm enjoying them having the confidence in me to take some of that game pressure and go with it. It's something you can thrive on because I know my coaches and teammates depend on me and support me fully."

As a freshman, Milons said he looked to many of his teammates, young and old, for competition and support off and on the field.

During my freshman year, it was Eric (Locke). Even though he was from Tennessee and I'm from Mississippi, both of us had been through the same thing recruiting. We bonded and understood each other going through the recruiting process and coming here," Milons said. "(Senior receivers) Calvin Hall, Quincy Jackson, Michael Vaughn, (current seniors) Tim Bowens and Shamari Buchanan helped us out in their own different ways.

"We took a little bit from everybody. I



Freddie Milons has been Alabama's top receiver this season, just his sophomore year. He's already beginning to put his name in the Crimson Tide record book.

Butch Dill Photo

watched Calvin's leadership, Quincy's competitiveness. Even some of the defensive players—I looked up to (senior safety) Kelvin Sigler because he would have fun at practice. People like that were a positive influence on me."

Milons' said his family did try to influence his decision on a college while he was being recruited, with his sister Anita a former basketball player for Ole Miss, his sister Cynthia a Mississippi State alumna and his dad a Jackson State alumnus, but the hometown Mississippi State Bulldogs weren't hot on the trail for Milons.

"There was a little pressure because the hometown people wanted me to stay, but I was looking for a team where I could show my athleticism and show what I can do at wideout," he said. "Mississippi State was more of a running team, and it wasn't a focus for them to open the offense up.

"(Quarterbacks) Coach (Charlie) Stubbs and Coach Swinney came to my house with (Inside Linebackers) Coach (Jeff) Rouzie and showed me the offense that they wanted. They showed me who they were recruiting down the line, and, since I have come here, that's what I have seen. They have opened it up, and have kept their word."

He said, "The main thing now is that we

want a championship. It's amazing how the Tide is rising. There are a couple of years there where we were slacking, but we have the recruits in and have a young team growing. We are going to start dominating again."

Milons did admit that he wants to make a name for himself. "Some of the receiving records here at Alabama aren't very deep and the numbers are low because the guys in the past played in a running offense," Milons said. "A lot of records are there to be broken, and I would like to be a threat. When a defensive coordinator thinks about Alabama, I want him to have to think about stopping me."

Milons said some of his successes so far have been the ones people don't necessarily see on the turf of Bryant-Denny Stadium, such as regularly hitting the weight room, maturing mentally, and accomplishing the physical goals monitored by Tide Strength Coach Terry Jones.

He said, "I like being called a smooth receiver. I mix my speed with my agility."

Coming from a college town with its own SEC school, Milons said Bama's November 13 showdown with Mississippi State will mean more than determining the winner of the SEC West. There are the regional and national

bragging rights that could come with a Bama win, but also the bragging rights back home when he plays against high school teammates on the Bulldogs, including MSU's emerging linebacker Barrin Simpson.

"Getting to return kicks against them last year, especially the last one which I almost broke, was great," he said. "I remember seeing Coach Sherrill (Mississippi State Head Coach Jackie Sherrill) chewing the kicker out, and I was hoping that he was saying, 'Don't kick it to him again."

Still early on in his career, yet close to finishing his second season of playing major college football, Milons said he knows what he has to work on to become the unstoppable, "smooth" scoring threat that he wants to be. He said it will come with more work in the weight room and more playing time.

"It's been real exciting, just to get a chance to show the world what we can do," said Milons. "Before the Florida game, Coach Swinney said that was our chance to show the world who the best wideouts in the SEC are, and we went out there, caught every ball thrown our way, and made some big plays. The wideouts are a big part of this team and when we got our opportunities we showed what we can do."

Time To Choose Team Of Decade

by Kirk McNair

Tough decisions as Bama has had top performers

ne aspect of Alabama football tradition is the active role Crimson Tide fans have played in various ways. Over the years Bama fans have been asked for more than support. One reason for that is followers of Alabama football are more than loyal. They have also proved to be knowledgeable. And so, over the years, Tide fans have been asked to choose such things as the top games in Alabama history, a Team of the Century, and three times the Team of the Decade.

Now it's time for more fan input, to choose the Alabama Football Team of the Decade for the 1990s.

In 1969 Charley Thornton, who was then Alabama's assistant athletics director and director of sports information, came up with the idea to have fans choose a Team of the Decade for the 1960s. The poll was conducted through daily newspapers in the state. Those Alabama teams of the 1960s won more games than any other college team in that decade.

(Without getting into hair-splitting, authorities agree that a decade or a millennium actually begins with the year 1 and ends at the end of the year 0, so that the decade of the '90s is actually 1991-2000. However, a decade also is defined as 10 years. It is more convenient to deal with teams of the '70s, '80s, etc.)

Alabama's teams of the 1970s repeated as the college with the most victories in a decade. There was a new magazine begun in 1979 and it became the task of 'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE to conduct the poll by which fans would select the Team of the Decade for the 1970s. The teams of

the 1980s did not win more games than any other, but there were still a number of excellent players, and once again 'BAMA readers and other Crimson Tide fans selected the Team of the Decade.

Now it's that time again. There is a ballot in this magazine and you are invited to use it. You will note there is room for the write-in candidates at each position. For those who do not wish to tear a page from the magazine, the ballot may be photocopied. (In fact, you are urged to make copies of the ballot and share it with Tide fans who may not be subscribers.) Or you may simply write down your selections. All votes must include the voter's name and address.

Ballots are available to anyone who calls (205) 345-5074 or writes to 'BAMA, P.O. Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0054.

The Alabama teams of the 1990s aren't going to be ranked as college football's most successful. Indeed, for the second consecutive decade there was a Tide team with a losing record (one each in the '80s and '90s after no such ignominy in the 1960s or 1970s). Nevertheless, there have also been great successes in this decade, most notably the undefeated national championship team of 1992.

Teams of the '60s and '70s included a sizeable number of players who were sporting national championship rings, but Alabama won three national championships in each of those decades. It was not a requirement that a player have been a participant on a national championship team. It was just difficult to avoid it.

It is likely that a number of players from the 1992 team will receive consideration from voters in this selection, but that is not a criteria. In fact, there is no criteria, other than the judgement of the voter. The Player of the Decade will be selected by the judges at 'BAMA, but the criteria will be as it has been in each of the three previous decades the player who receives the most total votes.



Jay Barker was not only an excellent quarterback for Bama, he was also one of the most popular players to wear the Crimson and White. Will he be the quarterback on the Alabama Team of the '90s? Barry Fikes Photo Because the selection of a Team of the Decade takes place at the end of that period, there is the likelihood that some players benefit by performing close to the voting time and some players are penalized by having had careers early in the decade. That is one reason we have a ballot with names of top players from each year, to remind voters of all the men who have played well.

There are also players whose careers overlap the end of a decade. A couple of prominent players from the 1980s whose careers extended into the 1990s were Lamonde Russell, a tight end and wide receiver, and quarterback Gary Hollingsworth. Because both were selected on the Team of the 1980s, their names are not included on the ballot for the Team of the '90s.

Additionally, a handful of freshmen—Marvin Constant, Antonio Carter, Saleem Rasheed, Kenny King among them—are starring for the Tide this year. While these are certainly eligible for inclusion on the Team of the '90s, they are more likely to be selected on the next Team of the Decade and they are not listed on the accompanying ballot.

Also not included on the ballot are a couple of outstanding players whose careers were cut short. Defensive end/outside linebacker Darrell Blackburn was a victim of a kidney disorder that resulted in him having to give up football. Offensive tackle Kareem McNeal was paralyzed in an offseason automobile accident.

No explanation is needed as to why an outstnading wide receiver like Eric Locke or an excellent linebacker like Travis Carroll is not on the ballot.

And other than punter and place-kicker, there are no specialist positions on the ballot. Indeed, there's not even a spot for a place-kicker who only kicks off, such as William "Wild Thing" Watts. However, it is likely that voters will sometimes take into account the play of a man on special teams. For instance, David Palmer is probably remembered as much for his kick return skills as for his pass-catching work. Although he was exciting and effective in occasional use at qurterback, it's not likely Palmer will get any write-in votes at that position.

A lthough there are no criteria for the voter's selections (other than the man must have played football for

Alabama during the 1990s), it may be helpful to be reminded of the achievements of some of those who were standouts in the decade.

Among those selected to first team All-America teams were:

Quarterback Jay Barker, wide receiver David Palmer, place-kicker Philip Doyle, place-kicker Michael Proctor, defensive lineman John Copeland, defensive lineman Eric Curry, defensive lineman Michael Myers, defensive lineman Robert Stewart, linebacker Dwayne Rudd, defensive back Kevin Jackson, and defensive back Antonio Langham.

Selected to second team All-America squads were tailback Sherman Williams, defensive lineman Shannon Brown, defensive lineman Chris Hood, defensive lineman Dameian Jeffries, and defensive back George Teague.

Not selected to any All-America teams, but first team All-Southeastern Conference selections include:

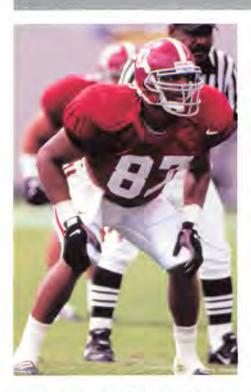
Center Tobie Sheils, center Roger Shultz, tailback Shaun Alexander, tailback Derrick



Fernando Bryant was a first round NFL draft choice after a sterling career at Alabama. Barry Fikes Photo

Lassic, tailback Siran Stacy, tailback Sherman Williams, offensive lineman Terrill Chatman, offensive lineman Chris Samuels, offensive lineman Jon Stevenson, defensive lineman Jeremy Nunley, defensive lineman George Thornton, linebacker Lemanski Hall, linebacker Antonio London, linebacker Derrick Oden,





Dwayne Rudd is considered one of Alabama's all-time top linebackers. He left after his junior year to go to the NFL.

Barry Fikes Photo

linebacker Ralph Staten, linebacker John Sullins, linebacker John Walters, defensive back Fernando Bryant, defensive back Willie Gaston, defensive back Tommy Johnson, defensive back Sam Shade, defensive back Efrum Thomas, defensive back Deshea Townsend, and punter Daniel Pope.

Second team all-conference selections include center John Causey, tailback Dennis Riddle, offensive lineman Will Friend, offensive lineman George Wilson, tight end Rod Rutledge, and defensive lineman Kenny Smith.

Among others honors to players in the 1990s:

Philip Doyle was named the outstanding back and defensive end John Copeland and center Tobie Sheils were named outstanding lineman by the Birmingham Monday Morning Quarterback Club. Top back and lineman choices of the Touchdown Club of Atlanta have included safety Efrum Thomas, defensive lineman Eric Curry, quarterback Jay Barker, and defensive tackle Shannon Brown. The Nashville Banner named quarterback Jay Barker the SEC Player of the Year in 1994. Tobie Sheils won the 1993 Jacobs Award, given to the top blocker in the SEC based on a vote of SEC coaches.

Previous Teams Of The Decade

In 1969, Alabama Assistant Athletics Director Charley Thornton came up with the idea to have Alabama fans choose the Team of the Decade for the 1960s. The poll was conducted through daily newspapers in the state of Alabama. In 1979 and 1989 'Bama took over the poll. Here are the previous Alabama Teams of the Decade:

1960s-Offense

Tight End–Bill Battle
Wide Receiver–Ray Perkins
Wide Receiver–Dennis Homan
Offensive Lineman–Billy
Neighbors
Offensive Lineman–Cecil Dowdy
Offensive Lineman–Alvin Samples
Offensive Lineman–Jimmy Sharpe
Center–Paul Crane
Quarterback–Joe Namath
Quarterback–Ken Stabler
Running Back–Steve Bowman
Running Back–Mike Fracchia
Placekicker–Tim Davis

1970s-Offense

Tight End–Ozzie Newsome
Wide Receiver–Wayne Wheeler
Offensive Lineman–John Hannah
Offensive Lineman–Buddy Brown
Offensive Lineman–Jim Bunch
Offensive Lineman–Buddy
Aydelette
Center–Dwight Stephenson
Quarterback–Richard Todd
Running Back–Johnny Musso
Running Back–Johnny Davis
Placekicker–Bill Davis

1980s-Offense

Tight End-Lamonde Russell

Wide Receiver–Joey Jones
Wide Receiver–Al Bell
Offensive Lineman–Bill Condon
Offensive Lineman–Terrill
Chatman
Offensive Lineman–Bob Cayavec
Offensive Lineman–Larry Rose
Center–Wes Neighbors
Quarterback–Gary Hollingsworth
Running Back–Bobby Humphrey
Running Back–Ricky Moore
Placekicker–Van Tiffin

1960s-Defense

End-Mike Ford
End-Creed Gilmer
Lineman-Billy Neighbors
Lineman-Alvin Samples
Lineman-Dan Kearley
Linebacker-Lee Roy Jordan
Linebacker-Wayne Hall
Linebacker-Darwin Holt
Defensive Back-Bobby Johns
Defensive Back-Cotton Clark
Punter-Steve Davis
Player of the Decade
Lee Roy Jordan

1970s-Defense

End-Leroy Cook
End-E.J. Junior
Lineman-Bob Baumhower
Lineman-Marty Lyons
Lineman-Gus White
Linebacker-Barry Krauss
Linebacker-Woodrow Lowe
Defensive Back-Mike Washington
Defensive Back-Ricky Davis
Defensive Back-Murray Legg
Defensive Back-Don McNeal
Punter-Greg Gantt
Player of the Decade
Ozzie Newsome

1980s-Defense

Outside Linebacker-Cornelius Bennett Outside Linebacker-Derrick Thomas Lineman-Mike Pitts Lineman-Jon Hand Lineman-Willie Wyatt Inside Linebacker-Keith McCants Inside Linebacker-Thomas Boyd Defensive Back-John Mangum Defensive Back-Kermit Kendrick Defensive Back-Jeremiah Castille Defensive Back-Tommy Wilcox Punter-Chris Mohr Player of the Decade Cornelius Bennett

'BAMA Magazine's Team of the Decade Ballot

Offense

QUARTERBACK (Choose 1) Jay Barker Freddie Kitchens Andrew Zow CENTER (Choose 1) John Causey Paul Hogan Tobie Sheils Roger Shultz PLACEKICKER (Choose 1) Philip Doyle Michael Proctor	TAILBACK (Choose 1) Curtis Alexander Shaun Alexander Derrick Lassic Dennis Riddle Siran Stacy Sherman Williams Martin Houston Tarrant Lynch Dustin McClintock Kevin Turner	LINEMAN (Choose 4) Maurice Belser Terrill Chatman John Clay Will Cuthbert Pete DiMario Will Friend Matt Hammond Joey Harville Joel Holliday Roosevelt Patterson Griff Redmill Chris Robinette Chris Samuels Sage Spree Jon Stevenson Laron White George Wilson	WIDE RECEIVER (Choose 2) Tim Bowens Curtis Brown Shamari Buchanan Calvin Hall Quincy Jackson Chad Key Kevin Lee Jason McAddley Freddie Milons David Palmer Michael Vaughn Prince Wimbley TIGHT END (Choose 1) Steve Busky Patrick Hape Tony Johnson Terry Jones Rod Rutledge
	De	efense	
LINEMAN (Choose 4) Shannon Brown Kendrick Burton John Copeland Eric Curry James Gregory Cornelius Griffin Byron Holdbrooks Chris Hood Dameian Jeffries Kelvin Moore Kindal Moorehead Michael Myers Jeremy Nunley Ozell Powell Kenny Smith Robert Stewart George Thornton	LINEBACKER (Choose 3) Fernando Davis Lemanski Hall Spencer Hammond Canary Knight Antonio London Miguel Merritt Derrick Oden Michael Rogers André Royal Dwayne Rudd Ralph Staten John Sullins John Walters Steve Webb	DEFENSIVE BACK (Choose 4) Fernando Bryant Tony Dixon Chris Donnelly Willie Gaston Stacy Harrison Kevin Jackson Tommy Johnson Antonio Langham Mark McMillian Cedric Samuel Sam Shade Kelvin Sigler Marcus Spencer George Teague Efrum Thomas Deshea Townsend Eric Turner Lorenzo Ward	PUNTER (Choose 1) Daniel Pope Hayden Stockton Tank Williamson
Name		☐ Also add or re-new me as a sub (Alabama residents MUST include ☐ Check (payable to 'BAMA) ☐ V	e additional \$2 sales tax)
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There's A Feeling Of Excitement

by Andrew Varble II

With a new head coach and a number of new performers, energy is high

alk about hitting the ground running! First year Crimson Tide Coach Don Wagner was named head coach last March, just after the NCAA Championships. After bidding his Texas A&M team goodbye, he immediately had to hire a staff, hit the recruiting trail, and pick up the coaching reigns for the Tide's spring practices. All that while moving his wife and two children across the country to Tuscaloosa.

"It was certainly a whirlwind experience," Wagner said. "Sometimes I think I met myself coming and going. But the excitement

level that I found here really kept me going. People are excited about this team again. They are excited about returning it to the nation's elite and being part of something special."

His first move was to retain diving coach Pat Greenwell, a four-time Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year honoree, and assistant coach Katie Gilbert, a five-year veteran of the Tide staff and a former Alabama All-America.

Wagner then called Nevada Head Coach Mike Anderson, asking him to bring his expertise to The Capstone as associate head coach. Arthur Albiero was next on Wagner's list, having served three-years as an assistant coach at very successful Kenyon College. Both men said yes and the Tide's staff was set.

Recruiting was next. The Tide was coming off an interim coach situation during the 1998-99 season. As such, the previous staff made contacts and kept up with prospects, but left much of the actual signing to Wagner. When the blur that was the Alabama staff last spring and summer

cleared, the Tide had added 15 athletes to its

A majority of the Tide's returning athletes stayed in Tuscaloosa over the summer to train for the coming season. In addition to an improvement in the Tide's conditioning level, Wagner said that he saw a hunger begin to build in his charges.

"This team is ready to make some noise this year," Wagner said. "They proved last spring and over the summer that they are ready to come out swinging. They're hungry to get better and to make this team better. I couldn't be more excited for the season to start."

labama's men will be led into the year 2000 by the middle distance freestyle contingent. Heading that charge will be senior co-captain Mark Jollands, the defending SEC 500 freestyle champion. Jollands was the Tide's top finisher at the SEC Championships in the 200, 500 and 1650 freestyles.

Jolland's younger brother Grant joined the Tide at the semester last season, as did

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Mathew Smith. That duo, despite limited training and having to make the adjustment to collegiate life and swimming, both scored in the 1650 freestyle, giving Alabama one of the best distance contingents in the conference. With a full year of training, Grant Jollands and Smith should make a huge leap forward. Add sprinter Glenn Walshaw into that mix and the Tide's 800 freestyle relay should be one the nation's best. Walshaw finaled in the 200 freestyle at last year's conference meet and was the Tide's top finisher in the 100 freestyle and 200 individual medley (IM).

While Jollands, Jollands, Smith and Walshaw will handle middle distance to distance duties, junior Oren Azrad will be leading the Tide's sprint contingent. Azrad finished the season as the Tide's top 50 and 100 freestyler and 100 and 200 backstroker. Joining him in the sprint lane will be junior Matt Wilsie, the Tide's second fastest returning 50 freestyler. Wilsie was also the squad's top 100 butterflyer last season and second fastest 200 flyer. Senior co-captain Rick Pratt and sophomore John Townsend will also see action in the freestyle events. Both men provided dependable depth for the Tide last season in the 50 through 200 events.

Sophomore T.J. Wolters made some noise

last season in the 200 butterfly, turning in the Tide's top time on the season as well as scoring at the conference championship. Wolters was second on the season in both the 200 and 400 IMs.

For the past four years, Alabama has looked to Brent Roberts when it came to diving. The two-time SEC Diver of the Year and past NCAA platform champion carried the Tide through some lean years, single handedly keeping Alabama in the top-25 three of his four seasons. While he will be missed, senior Alan Rose has proven himself a capable understudy, ready to step to the forefront this season. Rose scored on two boards last season at the SEC Championships.

As for the Tide's rookie six, they were recruited to help fill the holes in the Tide's lineup, starting with the breaststroke events. The Tide has been anemic in the breaststroke events since the graduation of Travis Myers in 1994. Nic Stoel, Charles Reeves and Jeb Franklin will all see time in the breaststroke events and on the Tide's medley relays. One of Australia's better breaststrokers, Stoel has finaled at the national level in his native land. A two-time Alabama state champion, Reeves was Vestavia Hills High School's team captain as a senior and MVP as a junior and senior. After helping Rio Mesa High School

to league championships, Franklin is hoping to step in and help Alabama in the breaststroke and IM events.

Zach Winchester has his sights set on helping shore up the Tide's butterfly contingent, after earning All-America honors in those events as a senior at Baylor High School in Chattanooga. The Winchester family is no stranger to SEC competition. Zach's father, Bill, was a baseball player at Vanderbilt, while his brother, Billy, played football at Tennessee. Paul Dixon looks to make his mark in the backstroke events. The Arkansas native led his club team, the Little Rock Dolphins, to the Arkansas State championship last season.

n the women's side, Alabama has as many newcomers on the squad as returnees, at nine apiece. Leading the Tide will be All-America senior Brooke Donoho and junior Kelly Coellner, the Tide's co-captains.

Donoho is the Tide's top breaststroker, having scored in both the 100 and 200 over the past three seasons. She is the only member of the Tide's current roster to have competed at the NCAA Championships.

Coellner led the Tide in the freestyle events last season from the 50 to 200 distances. She



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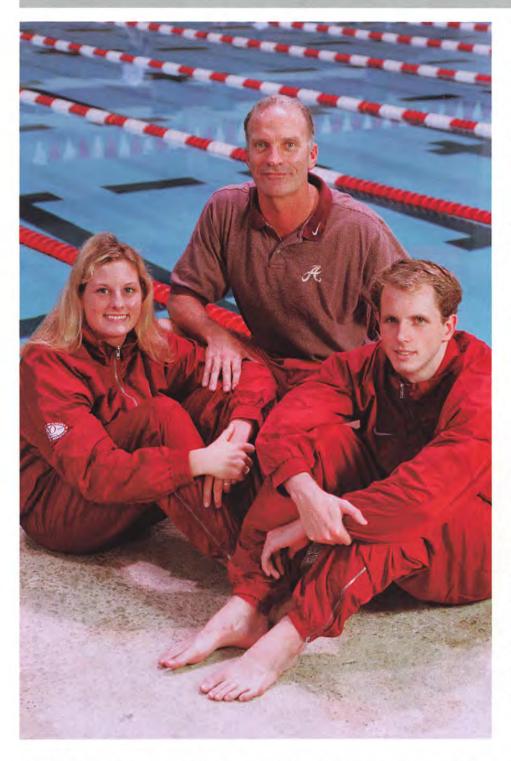
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New Alabama Head Swimming and Diving Coach Don Wagner (center) will be counting on his captains, including Brooke Donoho for the women and Mark Jollands for the men. Barry Fikes Photo

was the Tide's top finisher at the SEC Championship in the 100 and 200 freestyles as well as the 200 IM. She will again be asked to anchor those events for the Tide and provide strong relay legs. Senior Sarah Burns will also be a major freestyle factor. She scored in both the 100 and 200 freestyle at last year's league championship as well as

swimming legs on all five relays.

Senior Jackie Slingerland will spearhead the Tide's distance freestyle efforts. Slingerland has scored in the 500 and 1650 freestyles the past two seasons at the SEC Championships. Last year she was mere tenths of a second from breaking into the Tide's all-time top-10 in the 500 freestyle.

The name she would have replaced? Current Assistant Coach Katie Gilbert.

Also returning in the freestyle events this season will be sophomore sprinters Marcy Warriner, Katy Davidson and Meagan Barnett. That trio ranked second, third and fourth respectively for the Tide last season in the 50 freestyle. Warriner also saw extensive breaststroke action last season. Joining Warriner and Donoho in the breaststroke events will be sophomore Belinda Green. As a rookie, Green competed in the 100 and 200 breaststroke as well as the 200 IM at the SEC Championships.

The Tide returns its top 200 backstroker and 200 butterflyer from a year ago in junior Emily Donohue. Her top 200 backstroke time from last season moved her into Alabama's all-time top 10 list at number

eight.

As for the Tide's new-nine, Dawn Coy has the most Crimson Tide experience, in addition to being a veteran of the Alabama Swim Camp, Coy is the younger sister of former Alabama All-America Keri Coy. A prep All-America, the junior Coy will help shore up the Tide's butterfly brigade. Another Tide legacy, Brooke Wise, will also see butterfly action. Wise's sister, Michelle, swam for the Tide through the 1998 season. Wise joins the Tide after two years at East Carolina University where she held the freshman record in the 200 butterfly.

Chrissy Menendez is another rookie who should see butterfly action this season. She will also make some waves in the sprint to middle distance freestyle events. She was the Durant High School record-holder in the 200 and 500 freestyles as well as the 100 butter-

fly.

Joining the Tide's diving ranks will be Katherine Bortenlanger who has competed in Canada's Junior and Senior National Championships as well as Canada's World Championship trials. She will be joined by Lane Basham. After three years as runner-up at the Georgia State Championships, Bashman broke through as a senior, taking the title. The Tide's other rookie diver, Lainee Patterson, earns the award for the farthest traveled frosh. Patterson learned her craft in her native Alaska, where she earned state and region championships as a sophomore and junior.

Holly McCreless is another Tide rookie with more than a passing familiarity with the Tide program. The Tuscaloosa native swam for the Tuscaloosa Swim Club under former Tide Assistant Jane Bartee. She will joining Donoho, Warriner and Green in the breast-

stroke lane.

Another Alabama native to join the Tide's roster this season, Kelly Kerr hails from Gadsden. A butterflyer and backstroker, Kerr competed in the 100 and 200 distances of both strokes at YMCA nationals last season. Ginny Trott is yet another Alabama native (Birmingham) joining the Tide this year. A breaststroker and IMer, Trott competed at YMCA Nationals.

Tide Recruiters Look Far And Wide

by James Edwards

Here's a look at big men in Southeast who may be in Alabama football picture

ver the years great Alabama football teams have been built by recruiting outstanding players. While many of those are products of excellent Alabama high school programs, the very best Tide teams have also included top players from out of state. For the most part, those additions come from surrounding Southern states.

Because of Alabama's national reputation and long, impressive football tradition, the Crimson Tide has an advantage in recruiting around the region, and even outside of the South. This year, perhaps more than in the past, Alabama recruiting efforts outside of Alabama may prove critical to future Bama football success.

As is almost always the case, various recruiting publications list a large number of players from around the region and nation who say they are considering Alabama. It is likely that some of those are not being actively recruited by the Tide. It is also likely that Alabama will be involved with some top players who are not currently linked with Bama.

However, here is a look at some of the Big Men-linemen, linebackers and tight ends-around the Southeast who have been linked with Alabama. The prospects are listed alphabetically by states.

FLORIDA

Carlton Baker, linebacker, 6-1, 215, 4.6-second time in the 40-yard dash, from Glades Central High School in Belle Glade, is the top defensive player on the defending 4A state champions. He hails from a school that has produced the likes of Fred Taylor, Reidel Anthony, Johnny Rutledge, and Teddy Sims. He had 140 tackles as a junior including 35 for losses. He can play both inside and outside linebacker slots, and do them both with effectiveness. He is quick to

the ball and rugged when he arrives. He lists FSU, Miami, West Virginia, Alabama, Auburn, and Central Florida.

Ben Brinson, defensive end, 6-5, 250, 5.0, from Evans High School in Orlando, is a three year starter for a powerhouse school. He plays a steady game at defensive end. He had 70 tackles his junior year. He has good strength and he should be able to qualify. His interest from the colleges has picked up his senior year. He has interest in Michigan, Alabama, Clemson, Kansas, Nebraska, and LSU.

Brooks Daniels, linebacker, 6-3, 200, 4.5, from Hamilton County High School in Jasper, comes from the same school as Florida star Alex Brown and some say he could become a much better collegiate linebacker. He is a first team all-state member who had 92 tackles, 14 for loss, and 2 interceptions. He returned one interception for a touchdown. He also is a dynamic kick and punt returner who averaged 35 yards on kickoffs, and returned six punts for touchdowns. He is very strong, plus he is a full qualifier. He could be the most sought after linebacker in Florida. He is favoring Florida State, Alabama, Tennessee, Florida, Michigan, and Syracuse.

Kevin Deaton, offensive guard, 6-5, 290, 5.2, from Merritt Island High School is a first team all-state selection. He is one of the best offensive lineman in Central Florida, and in the entire South. He is a tremendous pass blocker. He will have numerous offers to choose from because lineman who have the capability to come in and play immediately don't show up very often. He said his list consists of Florida State, Florida, Miami, Alabama, and Tennessee.

Anthony Edwards, offensive guard, 6-4, 280, 5.2, from Evans High School in Orlando, is considered a sleeper, but he is a hard worker and can play each spot on the offensive front. He is a good drive blocker and is steadily improving his pass protection. He has good strength but must still qualify. He is hearing from Syracuse, Kansas State, Alabama, Houston, and Central Florida.

Yrvens Guerrier, linebacker, 6-0, 230, 4.7, from North Miami High School, is a good

athlete who is playing linebacker for his high school team. He made the honorable mention All-Dade County team as a junior when he had 98 tackles and five sacks. He is interested in Alabama, Syracuse, Missouri, South Carolina, Miami, and Kansas State.

Charles Howard, linebacker, 6-3, 205, 4.5, from Union County High School in Lake Butler, is a very active defender. He hails from the same school as Alabama's Andrew Zow and Philip Weeks and Florida's Gerard Warren and Bennie Alexander. He posted 65 tackles and 15 sacks as a junior and is the defensive leader as a senior. He was named the Suwannee Conference Defensive Player of the Year. He has good strength and will be a qualifier. He is considering Florida, FSU, Alabama, Virginia Tech, Tennessee, Maryland, and Wisconsin.

DeMarcus Johnson, defensive end, 6-4, 250, 4.9, from Rickards High School in Tallahassee, is also considered a sleeper, but he is starting to step up. He is from the same school as Bama freshman wide receiver Antonio Carter. He had 70 tackles and four sacks his junior year and was equally effective against the run and pass. He has good strength but must still qualify. He is hearing from Alabama, FSU, Florida, Central Florida, and Vanderbilt.

Joey Knowles, offensive guard, 6-4, 312, 4.95, from Hilliard High School, is a massively strong player with good speed for a big man. He is a quality defensive tackle who most feel will move to offensive guard in college. He had over 50 tackles with five sacks his junior year. He benches 430, which makes colleges think he will make a great power offensive guard. He graded out at over 90 per cent blocking efficiency as a junior. He is considering FSU, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, and Ohio.

Pat Marsonek, tight end, 6-5, 230, 4.8, from Jefferson High School in Tampa, is a combination tight end/defensive end who seems to be destined for offense in college. He is a superb prospect at both slots, but he can block as well as most linemen and he has tremendous hands. He caught 10 passes for 100 yards and 2 touchdowns in his first full season of football. As a defensive end, he had 65 tackles and 10 sacks. He is also a

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solid baseball player who may be drafted. He is considering schools that may give him the opportunity to play both sports in college. His interests include Florida, Michigan, Alabama, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Chad Mascoe, linebacker, 6-3, 220, 4.5, from Osceola High School in Kissimmee, is perhaps the best overall athlete in the state of Florida. He is Mr. Excitement on both offense and defense. He has started at wide receiver since his freshman year, and as a junior he had a total of 1,500 all purpose yards. However, he has received most of his recognition on the defensive side of the ball. As a junior, he racked up 95 tackles and 15 sacks in 11 games. He led his team to the state championship as a junior. He was selected all-state and also made the Pigskin Preps Super South 75 list. He is favoring Alabama, FSU, Florida, Miami, Tennessee, Georgia Tech, and Maryland.

Eric Moore, linebacker, 6-5, 225, 4.7, from Pahokee High School, was the highest -rated linebacker in Florida coming into this season. He was known as the Anguan Boldin of defense at Pahokee. He led the 3A runnersup in tackles with 142, plus had 10 sacks and 13 tackles for losses. He is an all-state member who is also a Pigskin Preps Super South 75 selection. He has very good strength and if he qualifies, look for an onslaught of offers to arrive. He lists his schools as Tennessee, Ohio State, FSU, Miami, West Virginia, Florida, Alabama, North Carolina, and Georgia.

Adam Murphy, center, 6-3, 270, 5.26, from South Dade High School in Homestead, is a high school offensive guard who will move to center in college. He already calls blocking schemes because he can recognize the defenses and can make the necessary adjustments. He is a third team All -Dade County selection who has excellent strength. He is already qualified and will choose between the likes of Miami, Florida, Ohio State, Oklahoma State, Alabama, FSU, Syracuse, and Michigan State.

Tyrone Saterfield, defensive tackle, 6-4, 295, 5.1, from Milton High School, is a sleeper prospect who had just 20 tackles as a junior back-up lineman. He played full time as a tight end, and he was a major threat even at his size. To say he was a great blocker would be an understatement, but he had 12 receptions for 230 yards and two touchdowns. He has the quickness and agility to move to offensive guard. He is qualified and very strong. He is interested in Auburn, Florida, FSU, Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Tennessee, Ohio State, and Louisville.

Brennis Smith, defensive end, 6-5, 270, 4.8, from Vernon High School, is a small school star who spends a lot of time in the backfield of the opponent. He had 72 tackles, 21 for losses, and 23 sacks as a junior. He is a first team all-state selection who has massive strength. He is interested in Florida, FSU, Georgia Tech, Alabama, Auburn, and Georgia.

Max Starks, offensive tackle, 6-8, 340, 5.1, from Lake Highland Prep School in Orlando, may be the best overall offensive tackle in the South. He is a physical specimen who is too overpowering and technically sound for most defensive ends to handle. He is an excellent pass blocker, plus he is well-coordinated in his foot-work, which makes him effective as a run blocker. His future is definitely in the NFL, but his collegiate stop will be from the likes of Michigan, South Carolina, UCLA, Georgia, Georgia Tech, FSU, Miami, Alabama, and Virginia.

Chad Tidwell, offensive tackle, 6-5, 305, 5.3, from Lincoln High School in Tallahassee, is a quick-rising offensive tackle prospect who was a pre-season All-Big Bend selection. He has very good technique and excellent strength. He is playing well as a senior, and if he can achieve eligibility requirements, he will receive numerous offers. Presently he has interest in Tennessee, FSU, Auburn, Alabama, Florida, Central Florida, Kentucky, and South Carolina.

Joe Walker, linebacker, 6-0, 215, 4.57, from Deerfield Beach High School in Deerfield Beach, is a very active linebacker who can take over a game. He loves to hit. He had 118 tackles and 14 sacks as a junior. He is considered the top defensive prospect on his team and they have as many as eight who could sign Division I scholarships. He has good strength and he should qualify. He lists Wisconsin, Michigan, Florida, Miami, Georgia Tech, West Virginia, Georgia. Alabama, and Missouri.

Kolby Wells, linebacker, 6-3, 235, 4.7. from Belleview High School, is a brick wall in the middle of a defense. He controls the game with his great play and intelligence. He led the Marion County area with 166 tackles and 29 for losses last year. He is originally from California, but he moved to Florida and was an immediate impact player. He plans to look at Florida, FSU, Miami, UCF, Oklahoma, Alabama, Georgia Tech, Georgia, and Auburn.

Pat Worsham, offensive tackle, 6-6, 290, 5.2, from Mainland High School in Daytona Beach, is a talented offensive lineman who made a name for himself his junior year. He really stepped his game up to another level because he improved both his foot speed and quickness. He defeated his man approximately 95 per cent of the time as a junior. He is well on track to qualify and he can bench over 300. He is considering Duke, South Carolina, Notre Dame, Georgia, Miami, Alabama, Michigan State, and Pittsburgh.

GEORGIA

John Andrews, linebacker, 6-0, 230, 4.5, from Douglass High School in Atlanta, is an imposing figure at middle linebacker where he amassed 98 tackles and five sacks as a junior. He is aggressive, sheds blocks, and has plenty of range. He plays in a very strong district and he is among the most notable players in that region. He is very strong (bench press 360, squat 420) and he is on line to qualify. He is originally from New Jersey and he has interest in several Northern schools such as Ohio State, Michigan, Purdue, and Iowa to go with the Southern schools of Alabama and Georgia Tech.

Bo Clark, defensive end, 6-5, 250, 4.8, from Lee County High School in Leesburg, is a two-time all-region selection who finished his junior year with 80 tackles and 10 sacks. He has camped at Alabama twice and the Tide leads the likes of FSU, South Carolina, Mississippi State, and Georgia Tech. He said he needs to get stronger and improve his academics.

Reggie Cordy, offensive guard, 6-3, 270, 5.1, from Dublin High School, is a solid offensive line prospect. He stays low and dominates his man at the point of attack. He has very good footwork and he drives his man out of the play at an 80 per cent blocking efficiency rate. He has very good strength and should qualify. He is a three-year starter who has interest in Florida, Georgia, Clemson, Auburn, Northwestern, Alabama, and North Carolina State.

Nate French, defensive tackle, 6-3, 285, 5.0, from Colquitt County High School in Moultrie, is perhaps the best pure defensive tackle prospect in the Peach State. He was the region defensive player of the year after a junior season in which he had 108 tackles and four sacks. He is bulky strong and he is already qualified. He said he is getting calls from Tennessee, Georgia Tech, Georgia, FSU, Notre Dame, and Alabama.

Hobic Holiday, linebacker, 6-3, 225, 4.67 from Houston County High School in Warner Robins, could become the most recruited linebacker in Georgia. He is a speed rusher off the corner, he plays very physical, and he can switch directions on a dime. He is an All-Middle Georgia selection who had 110 tackles, 10 for losses, and three sacks as a junior. He is above average on strength. but needs to raise his SAT score. He is being courted by the likes of FSU. Clemson, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Ohio State, and Alabama.

Maurice Mitchell, offensive tackle, 6-7.

295, 5.0. from Dougherty High School in Albany, could be the second best prospect in Georgia. (The best is Yohance Buchanan, brother of Bama's Shamari Buchanan, a linebacker who has already committed to FSU.) Mitchell is a dominating player at both offensive and defensive tackle. He finished second on his team in tackles with 87, and he graded at a 77 per cent clip in blocking efficiency (in a very hard grading system). He was the vocal leader of the 3A state champions. He has great strength (bench press 350, squat 560) and he is working hard to qualify. He is getting scholarship offers from everywhere, but said his main interests are Georgia Tech, Georgia, Alabama, FSU, and Auburn.

Jeremy Phillips, offensive tackle, 6-7, 290, 5.2, from Oconee County High School in Watkinsville, is a three-year starter. He was an All-Northeast Georgia and all-state selection as a junior. He led his team to the playoffs last season. He is already qualified and he can bench press 380. He is considering Georgia Tech, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina State, Alabama, Michigan State, South Carolina, and Auburn.

Dreak Pooler, linebacker, 6-3, 220, 4.5,

from Dublin High School, is a four-year starter who is very quick to the football. He plays both inside and outside linebacker, but due to his speed he is probably destined for the outside in college. He had 93 tackles as a junior and most of that was in pursuit. He has excellent strength and has a chance to be qualified. He has expressed interest in Georgia, FSU, North Carolina State, Florida, Georgia Tech, Alabama, and Auburn.

Justin Smiley, offensive guard, 6-4, 303, 4.94, from Southeast Bulloch High School in Brooklet, ranks among the top three offensive linemen in the state. He has tremendous footwork, great speed, and is a terrific pass blocker. He graded 80 per cent blocking efficiency his junior year against very good competition. He committed early on to South Carolina, but now said he will look around. Florida and Alabama seem to have the inside track on him, but Georgia Tech and Clemson haven't stopped their recruiting efforts. He has very good strength and he is a full qualifier.

Chaurean Toy, offensive guard, 6-4, 270, 4.85 from Southwest Dekalb High School in Decatur, has very good football knowledge, great quickness, exceptional strength, and is

very aggressive. He graded out his junior year at 86 per cent blocking efficiency. He should be a qualifier. He is interested in Tulane, Alabama, Mississippi State, Georgia, and Auburn.

Sean Young, offensive tackle, 6-7, 293, 5.1 from Northwest Whitfield High School in Tunnel Hill, may be the top offensive tackle prospect in Georgia. Many consider him the best offensive tackle prospect in Georgia. He was selected to the *USA Today* Top 25 team. He is a great pass blocker, and he has the quickness to be a great drive blocker. He graded a whopping 94 per cent in blocking as a junior. He is the brother of Chad Young who is presently at Georgia, and the Dogs have the inside track on him. He is also studying Arkansas, FSU, Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina State, Notre Dame, Nebraska, and Michigan State.

MARYLAND

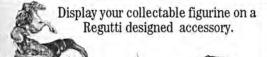
Mikal Baaqee, linebacker, 6-1, 215, 4.5 from DeMatha High School in Hyattsville, is a very athletic linebacker who has played some strong safety. He tallied 151 tackles, 11 for losses, eight sacks, and six fumble recoveries as a junior. He has great strength (bench press 355, squat 495), and he is aca-

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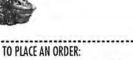


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demically qualified. He is being pursued by Virginia Tech, Alabama, Syracuse, Georgia Tech, Wake Forest, and Michigan.

Jason Lallis, tight end, 6-3, 235, 4.7, from DeMatha High School, is a very quick tight end/defensive end prospect who could end up either on offense or defense in college. He has very good receiving hands and he is a better than average blocker. He also rushes the passer very well off the corner, and while he was not sure how many tackles he had as a junior, one report said he was over 100. He has very good strength and he is qualified. He is interested in Georgia Tech, Virginia Tech, Maryland, Michigan, Rutgers, Alabama, South Carolina, and North Carolina State.

Derek Wake, defensive end, 6-3, 230, 4.5, from DeMatha High School, is considered by many to be the best defensive line prospect in the state. He has tremendous speed off the corner, and it is possible he could move back to an outside linebacker position in college. He posted 127 tackles and 17 sacks as a junior. Look for him to be the most recruited player of the three, and don't look for an early decision. He is already qualified and he has great strength in his legs (squat 680). He is involved with Penn State, Georgia Tech, Virginia Tech, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio State, and Alabama.

MISSISSIPPI

Doug Buckles, offensive tackle, 6-6, 275, 5.0, from Madison Central High School, is the consensus number one player in Mississippi. He is a prototype offensive lineman—strong, agile, aggressive, and intelligent. He has great footwork, and he is a true leader. The schools involved with him include Ole Miss, Tennessee, LSU, Notre Dame, Alabama, Mississippi State, and Florida.

Jason Clark, linebacker, 6-3, 235, 4.7, from Starkville High School, the same school as Freddie Milons, is a rugged player who plays with a lot of intensity. He ruled the middle of the field with over 100 tackles as a junior. He has very good strength and he is well on track to qualify. The clear leaders are Alabama, Mississippi State, and Tennessee.

J. J. Grant, defensive end, 6-4, 225, 4.57, from Clinton High School, is a very athletic linebacker who could easily find himself at defensive end at the collegiate level. He possesses outstanding quickness and he displays the versatility to play either up or down. His junior year was the first year he played football, and he had 81 tackles and seven sacks. He has very good strength and will qualify. He is leaning to Alabama over Mississippi State, Tennessee, Florida, FSU, LSU, and Ole Miss.

-Ryan Lee, offensive tackle, 6-6, 290, 5.1,



Dewayne Robertson

from Pearl River Central High School in Carriere, is considered a sleeper offensive tackle prospect. He has great size, and his feet are outstanding. He is improving his stock with every game as a senior. He has excellent strength and he will be a qualifier. He is getting inquiries from Ole Miss, Mississippi State, LSU, Southern Mississippi, Alabama, Tulane, and Auburn.

Jadice Moore, defensive end, 6-4, 270, 4.9, from Port Gibson High School, has a chance to be the most sought after defensive line prospect in the state. He is very quick off the ball and he accelerates well. He could end up moving down as a tackle in college. He posted some 70 tackles as a junior. He is getting contact from Mississippi State, Alabama, Ole Miss, LSU, Auburn, and Georgia Tech.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Bradshaw Littlejohn, tight end, 6-2, 240, 4.65, from Gaffney High School, is a very athletic player. He is a gifted player who was his team's quarterback as a junior, leading Gaffney to the state finals as he passed for over 1,000 yards. He is interested in Georgia, Clemson, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Alabama.

TENNESSEE

Tyson Clabo, offensive tackle, 6-7, 280, 5.07, from Farragut High School in Knoxville, is a skilled offensive tackle who has the agility to move down to a quick guard. He reads defenses well and he is great at picking up stunts. He graded around 88 per cent in blocking efficiency as a junior, and he has terrific explosion in his legs. His dad played at Tennessee in the '70s. He has good strength and he is qualified. He is getting attention from Ohio State, Tennessee,

Ole Miss, Florida, Stanford, Georgia, Alabama, Nebraska, and Duke.

Mondre Dickerson, defensive end, 6-6, 255, 4.7, from Melrose High School in Memphis, is a bona fide prospect at defensive end who had 67 tackles and seven sacks as a junior. But most, including his high school coach, think he would be better served to move to offensive tackle. He has excellent speed off the corner, but he has the frame to add around 30 pounds. In the first scrimmage prior to his senior season he pancaked his man 14 times from his offensive tackle slot. He has a lanky frame but it is solid. He benches around 360 and he will have no problem qualifying. He favors Tennessee over Alabama, FSU, Arkansas, and Michigan.

Shaka Hill, defensive end, 6-3, 244, 4.66, from Goodpasture High School in Madison, is a combination fullback/defensive end. He has the make-up for stardom as last year he was the runner up for Mr. Football to Troy Fleming (now at Tennessee). He rushed for 718 yards and 13 touchdowns as a fullback, while he had 43 solo tackles as a defensive end. He has good strength but must improve his academics. He favors Alabama over Tennessee, Ohio State, Michigan, and Nebraska.

Victor McClure, defensive tackle, 6-4, 285, 4.9, from Soddy Daisy High School, produced 48 tackles, 17 for losses, and four sacks. He is an all-region performer who has very good strength and should qualify. He is getting interest from Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina State, Kentucky, Clemson, and Purdue.

Albert Means, defensive tackle, 6-6, 310, 4.9, from Trezevant High School in Memphis, is .unquestionably the number one prospect in Tennessee, perhaps in the South. He racked up 118 tackles as a junior with 11 sacks, and five interceptions (two returned for touchdowns). He is an all-state honoree, who will no doubt be a member of the *USA Today* super team at the end of his senior year. He is a national recruit who is being courted by every major school, but he is interested in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Auburn, Nebraska, Texas, and Michigan State.

Dewayne Robertson, defensive tackle, 6-2, 314, 5.0, from Melrose High School in Memphis, had 94 tackles and four sacks as a junior, and his coach thinks he could become a better collegiate player than either Kindal Moorehead or David Paine. His 32-inch vertical jump is evidence of his explosive leg strength. He is powerfully strong and will be eligible. He is the cousin of 1999 Crimson Tide signee David Paine (now in junior college), so Alabama could be in good shape with him. He is also considering Tennessee, Georgia, Auburn, Kentucky, and Purdue.

Big Names Expected To Join Tide

by Kirk McNair

Men's basketball makes big news in early signings which begin November 10

t is almost hard to believe that Gerald Wallace is not yet a member of the Alabama basketball team. It has been many, many years since a basketball prospect attracted so much attention. And because his fame began so early and extended to such lengths, he has been on the minds of Bama basketball fans (and, no doubt, Crimson Tide coaches) for months. Moreover, he decided in the summer to make it known that he intends to sign with Alabama. He showed up at the summer's successful "Alabama Legends" basketball game in Coleman Coliseum. Fans were able to get the autographs of current Tide players and of those players from past years who were being honored at the event. And it wasn't long before fans realized there was a future legend on hand, too, and Wallace ended up signing some autographs.

Wallace will be the leader of a small but high quality class of signees added to Coach Mark Gottfried's Crimson Tide men's basketball team when he puts his name on scholarship papers November 10. That's the first day of the early signing period for winter and spring sports. The week-long signing period ordinarily results in a handful of signees in most of the winter and spring sports, but the pre-signing attention has always been on men's basketball.

The Alabama men's baseball team of Coach Jim Wells has been active in the early signing period in previous years, but sources said that because Bama has only two seniors this season that Wells will probably sign no more than five players in the early period and that all of them will be high school seniors.

Wallace has made his name in AAU play as a member of the famed Alabama Ice and in the summer basketball camps conducted solely for the benefit of college basketball scouts and recruiters. And what a name he made. He was named MVP of the Bob Gibbons Tournament of Champions last May in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He went into the ABCD camp in Teaneck, New

Jersey, as the top-ranked prospect in the country, according to USA Today.

He was ranked the number one prospect in the nation by the likes of recruiting publications Future Stars, Prep Spotlight and Prep Star. He was listed number two by Recruiting Beat. Hoop Scoop had him all the way down at sixth. He was compared to all-time great Michael Jordan by The Sporting News, which noted his "combination of skills, intangibles and athletic ability." He is so good that serious speculation concerned whether he might go directly from high school to the National Basketball Association. He announced that was not a possibility, that he had promised his parents he would attend college. At least for a year or two.

Wallace is a 6-6 forward who plays for Coach Chad Slaten at Childersburg High School. Last year he averaged 30 points, 13.8 rebounds and 3.8 blocks. He is generally praised for his offensive skills, particularly his quickness to the basket from the wing position he is expected to play in college. He is also a strong three-point shooter. Wallace is noted for having scored 51 points in a game last year, a game in which he had seven dunks and seven three-point shots among his scores.

Although he had his choice of colleges, Wallace picked the Tide over North Carolina. He said, "Alabama just seemed like the right place for me. I like Coach Gottfried, the campus, and the program. I'm looking forward to playing there." He also noted that he had not been aware of Alabama's rich basketball tradition until joining the 10,000 fans who came to watch the Legends Game. And get autographs.

Then Wallace held the press conference this summer to announce his verbal commitment, to Alabama, he was joined by another man who announced that he, too, was Bamabound for the 2000-2001 freshman class. Mario Austin, who is a 6-10 forward/center from Sumter County High School in York also announced he will play at Alabama.

The pair were Alabama Ice AAU teammates, and proved to be a dynamic duo together on the floor. "Of all the players I've played with, (Mario) is the best," Wallace said. "He knows what I'm thinking and I know what he is thinking. We can make the pass and the plays without even looking at each other because we know where each other is going to be."

ESPN.Com ranked Austin its top national center prospect. And he has not been overlooked by the other recruiting services. While Wallace was ranked number one in composite rankings of the publications, Austin was a very respectable number 13 in the nation. He was ranked seventh by Future Stars, eighth by Prep Spotlight, 10th by Hoop Scoop, 17th by Recruiting Beat, and 27th by Prep Star.

Last year he led his team to the state championship while averaging 20 points and 12 rebounds per game for Coach Johnny Patrick.

It is likely that Alabama will not have any other men's basketball signees in the early period. However, Bama is linked with at least two other top regional prospects.

Demetrius Smith is a 6-4 guard from LaGrange, Georgia, who has Alabama on his list. And although there were published reports that Justin Reed, a 6-5 guard from Provine High School in Jackson, Mississippi, had committed to Auburn, Mississippi sources say Reed is still looking at other schools, including Alabama.

Rick Moody's Alabama women's basketball team is also adding a top performer in the early signing period. And Moody had a little advantage in the recruiting battle for perhaps the top player in Florida. Binky Martello, a four-time all-state selection and two-time Class 2A Player of the Year, announced over a month ago she would sign with Bama, picking the Crimson Tide over Florida and Nebraska.

Last year she averaged 22 points and 11.6 rebounds for Jay High School in the Florida panhandle. She has started since the seventh grade, been a part of two state championship teams, and is on pace to finish as the number three scorer in Florida history. As a seventh-grader she hit the game-winning shot in the finals of the state tournament. As an eighth-grader she scored a game-high 28 points in the state finals in leading her team to victory and was named Most Valuable Player in the state tournament.

The six-foot senior has been a regular at Moody's summer basketball camp since she was a sixth grader. One of the assistant coaches on her high school team is Becky Holley, who is the sister of Moody. Terry McClure is the head coach.

The honor student is expected to play on the wing at Bama.

1999-2000 Alabama Winter Sports Schedules

Men's Basketball

Date	Opponent Time (CST)
Nov. 5	Total Sports (Exhibition)	7:00
Nov. 8	Worldwide Basketball (Exh.)	7:00
	rains Classic @ St. Louis, Mis	
	Northern Iowa	6:00
	St. Louis	6:30
Nov. 19	Weber State	7:00
Nov. 22		7:00
Alabama	Invitational @ Coleman Coli	seum
	Centenary	TBA
Nov. 27	LaSalle or Highpoint	TBA
Dec. 2	Samford (SportsSouth TV)	7:00
Dec. 11	@ Louisville	TBA
Dec. 18	Tennessee-Chattanooga (Fox	
SportsSo		1:00
	raun Center, Huntsville	
Dec. 21	Alabama A&M	7:00
Fiesta	Bowl Classic @ Tucson, Ariz	ona
	Delaware	7:00
Dec. 30	Arizona or NC-Wilmington	TBA
Jan. 5	@ LSU	7:00
Jan. 8	Mississippi State	7:00
	Georgia (J-P TV) 1:30 or	4:00
Jan. 19	Arkansas	7:00
Jan. 22	Florida (Pay-Per-View)	7:00
Jan. 29	Ole Miss	7:00
Feb. 2	@ Auburn (CSSE TV)	7:00
Feb. 5	LSU	7:00
Feb. 9	@ Arkansas (J-P TV)	7:00
Feb. 12	Vanderbilt	7:00
Feb. 16	@ Kentucky (J-P TV)	7:00
Feb. 19	@ South Carolina	6:30
Feb. 22	Auburn (ESPN TV)	6:00
	Tennessee (J-P TV)	1:00
March 1	@ Ole Miss	7:00
	@ Mississippi State	2:00
	eastern Conference Tournam	
	-12 @ Atlanta	TBA

Men's Swimming

Date/	Opponent	Time (CT)/
UA Score		Opp. Score
135.5	Northeast Louisiana	95.5
Nov. 6	LSU	TBA
Nov. 19	@ Auburn	5:00
Dec. 2-4	US Open @ San Anto	onio
Jan, 4	@ Florida	11:00
	Penn State	1:00
Jan. 22	@ Clemson	1:00
Jan. 29	South Carolina	1:00
Feb. 16-	SEC Championships	
Feb. 19	@ Baton Rouge	
Feb. 25-27	Last Chance @ Aubu	irn
Mar. 10-11	NCAA Diving Zone	@ Auburn
Mar. 23-	NCAA Championsh	
Mar. 25	@ Minneapolis	
Mar. 28-	USS National Champ	pionships
April 1	@ Federal Way, Wash	t.
April 2-	U.S. Diving Zone	
April 4	@ Athens	
	U.S. Diving Champi	onships
April 18	@ TBA	

Women's Basketball

	CST)
Mississippi All-Stars (Exhibition)7:00
	7:00
	5:00
Mich Stor Appalachian St	TBA
Mich. St of Apparachian St	IDA
	7:00
	7:30
Drake	7:30
South Alabama	7:00
7 Tulane	7:00
Akron	6:00
	7:00
ry's Christmas Classic @ Moraga	, Cal.
Canisius, St. Mary's	
	TBA
Finals	TBA
@ Memphis	7:00
	7:00
ieorgia	2:00
@ Auburn	7:00
@ Ole Miss	7:00
Mississippi State	2:00
Kentucky	7:00
Ole Miss	2:00
	7:00
D Tennessee	2:00
	7:00
Auburn (Fox SportsSouth TV)	2:00
@ South Carolina	6:00
	2:00
@ Georgia	6:00
	2:00
heastern Conference Tournam	
2-5 @ Chattanooga	TBA
	Mississippi All-Stars (Exhibition) Slovan Bartislavia [Slovakia] ition) Michigan State Holiday Classic St. John's Mich. St or Appalachian St Samford (Mexico) Basketball Tournat Kansas State Drake South Alabama Tulane Akron Alabama A&M ry's Christmas Classic @ Moraga Canisius, St. Mary's or Missouri-Kansas City Finals Memphis elmont feorgia Memphis Mississippi State

Women's Swimming

Date	Opponent	Time (C.1)
UA Score		Opp. Score
90	Northeast Louisiana	23
92	Georgia Southern	21
Nov. 6	LSU	TBA
Nov. 19	@ Auburn	5:00
Dec. 2-4	US Open @ San Anto	nio
Jan. 4	@ Florida	11:00
Jan. 8	Penn State	1:00
Jan. 22	@ Clemson	1:00
Jan. 29	South Carolina	1:00
Feb. 16-	SEC Championships	
	@ Baton Rouge	
Feb. 25-27	Last Chance @ Aubu	rn
Mar. 10-11	NCAA Diving Zone @	Auburn
Mar. 16-	NCAA Championshi	ps
Mar. 18	@ Indianapolis	200
Mar. 28-	USS National Champ	pionships
	@ Federal Way, Wash	
	U.S. Diving Zone	
	@ Athens	
April 13-	U.S. Diving Champic	nships
April 18	@ TBA	

Gymnastics

Jan. 2	Excile Night (Intrasquad	12.00
Jan. 8	Super Six Kickoff	5:30
200	@ Athens, Georgia	
(AI	abama. Georgia, Florida,	
UCLA	Michigan, Northeastern)	
	, parameters, and assessment	
Jan. 15	Auburn	7:00
Jan. 21	Florida	7;00
Jan. 28	@ Georgia (ESPN)	6:30
Jan. 30	@ Auburn	2:00
Feb. 4	@ LSU	7:00
Feb. 11	North Carolina	7:00
Feb. 18	Arizona State Invitationa	8:00
2 241 311	@ Tempe, Arizona	
(4	Alabama, Arizona State,	
,,-	Minnesota, Utah)	
Feb. 25	@ Kentucky	6:30
March 4	Georgia (SportsSouth)	7:00
March 11	Penn State	7:00
March 18	SEC Championships	
3000000	@ Gainesville	
April 1	NCAA Central Regional	
April 13-	NCAA Championships	
April 15	@ Boise, Idaho	
v.berr 13	San wall familia	

Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 15	Purple Tiger @ Baton Rouge
Jan. 22	SEC Four-Way @ Lexington
(Alal	pama, Mississippi State,
Te	nnessee, Kentucky)
Feb. 4-5	Notre Dame Classic
	@ South Bend, Ind.
Feb. 25-27	SEC Championships
	@ Fayetteville
March 3-4	USATF Championships
	@ Atlanta
March 10-11	NCAA Championships
	@ Fayetteville

Women's Indoor Track

	Irack
Date	Event
Jan. 15	Purple Tiger @ Baton Rouge
Jan. 22	SEC Four-Way @ Lexingtor
	oama, Mississippi State,
Te	ennessee, Kentucky)
Feb. 4-5	Cannon IV @ Indianapolis
Feb. 11	Virginia Tech Invitational
	@ Blacksburg
Feb. 25-27	SEC Championships
	@ Fayetteville
March 3-4	USATF Championships
	@ Atlanta
March 10-11	NCAA Championships
	@ Carattavilla

Schedules Of Alabama's 1999 Opponents

27	aas		2 sern	5		ppi ppi	bilt		sg	S S	
Nov.	@ Tennessee		Dec. 2 @ Southern Cal	OST ®		Nov. 25 @ Mississippi State	Vanderbilt		Arkansas	Nov. 25 Ole Miss	
Nov. 20		@ Army		Mississippi State @ Little Rock	FSU	Georgia	@ Kentucky	@ Louisville		Arkansas @ Little Rock	ALABAMA 630 (ESPN)
Nov. 13	Kentucky	nst ®	@ UAB	Tennessee	@ South Carolina		@ Arkansas	Southwestern Louisiana	Houston	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa)	@ Georgia
Nov. 6	@ Florida	Tulane	Northeast Louisiana	@ Ole Miss	Vanderbilt	Arkansas	Notre Dame	@ Memphis	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 11:30 JP TV	Kentucky	Central Florida
Oct. 30		East	@ Toledo	Auburn	Georgia @ Jacksonville	@ FSO	South	@ ALABAMA (Tuscalcosa) 2:00 CDT	Ole Miss		@ Arkansas
Oct. 23	@ South Carolina 11-10	@ Louisville 33-39	@ Central Florida 46-35				@ AIABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 7-21 CBS TV	Cincinnati 28-20	@ Mississippi State 16-17	LSU 17-16	
Oct. 16	Georgia 17-27	@ North Carolina 20-12	Middle Tennessee 42-18	South Carolina © Little Rock 48-14	@ Auburn 32-14	ALABAMA 24.30 CBS-TV		Army 24-0	@ Kentucky 5-31		Florida 14-32
Oct. 9	The Citadel 58-0	Cincinnati 23-20		Middle Tennessee 58-6	@ LSU 31-10	Tulane 20-13	Georgia 37-20	@ East Carolina 39-22	Florida 10-31	@ Auburn 18-16	Mississippi State 16-18
Oct. 2	Mississippi State 14-42		© Southwestern Louisiana 41-31	@ Kentucky 20-31	ALABAMA 39-40 (OT) CBS-TV	@ South Carolina 36-10	Auburn 24-0		@ Georgia 22-23	@ Vanderbilt 41-14	@ Tennessee 0-24
Sept. 25	@ Duke 31-14	@ UAB 10-29		@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) CBS TV 28-35	@ Kentucky 38-10	@ Auburn 24-17 (OT)	Memphis 17-16	@ Texas A&M 9-23		South Carolina 17-0	Ole Miss 17-24 (OT)
Sept. 18	@ Ole Miss 37-34 (OT)	Southwestern Louisiana 45-0	alaBama (Biminglan) 29-28	Northeast Louisiana @ Little Rock 44-6	Temessee 23-21	Vanderbilt 34-37 (OT)	@ Florida 21-23	@ Nebraska 13-20	Auburn 7-41	Oklahoma State 29-11	@ LSU 7-41
Sept. 11	Northern Illinois 34-31	@ ALABAMA (Beninghan) JPTV 1037	Sam Houston State 55-17		Central Florida 58-27	Arkansas State 38-14		Northwestern Louisiana 40-6	North Texas 52-0	Memphis 13-10	Idaho 30-23
Sept. 4	ALABAMA "PTV 17-28	Rice 28-3	Aug. 28 @ FSU 7-41 Sept. 4 Texas A&M 17-37	@ SMU 26-0	Western Michigan 55-26	@ Memphis 3-0	Wyoming 42-17	Sept. 5 Tulane 48-14	San Jose State 29-21	Middle Tennessee 40-7	Appelachian State 22-15
Team	VANDERBILT Commodores Nashville, Tenn. (Alabama leads series, 54-19-4)	HOUSTON Cougars Houston, Texas (Alabama leads series, 8-0-0)	LOUISIANA TECH Buildogs Ruston, La. (Alabama leads series, 3-1-0)	ARKANSAS Razorbacks Fayetteville, Ark. (Alabama leads series, 6-3-0)	FLORIDA Cators Gainesville, Fla. (Alabama leads series, 17-11-0)	OLE MISS Rebels Oxford, Miss. (Alabama leads series, 37-7-2)	TENNESSEE Volunteers Knoxville, Tenn. (Alabama leads series, 42-31-7)	SOUTHERN MISS Colden Eagles Hattiesburg, Miss. (Alabama leads series, 28-4-2)	LSU Fighting Tigers Baton Rouge, La. (Alabama leads series, 40-16-5)	MISSISSIPPI STATE Buildogs Starkville, Miss. (Alabama leads series, 66-13-3)	AUBURN Tigers Aubum, Ala. (Alabama leads series, 35-26-1)



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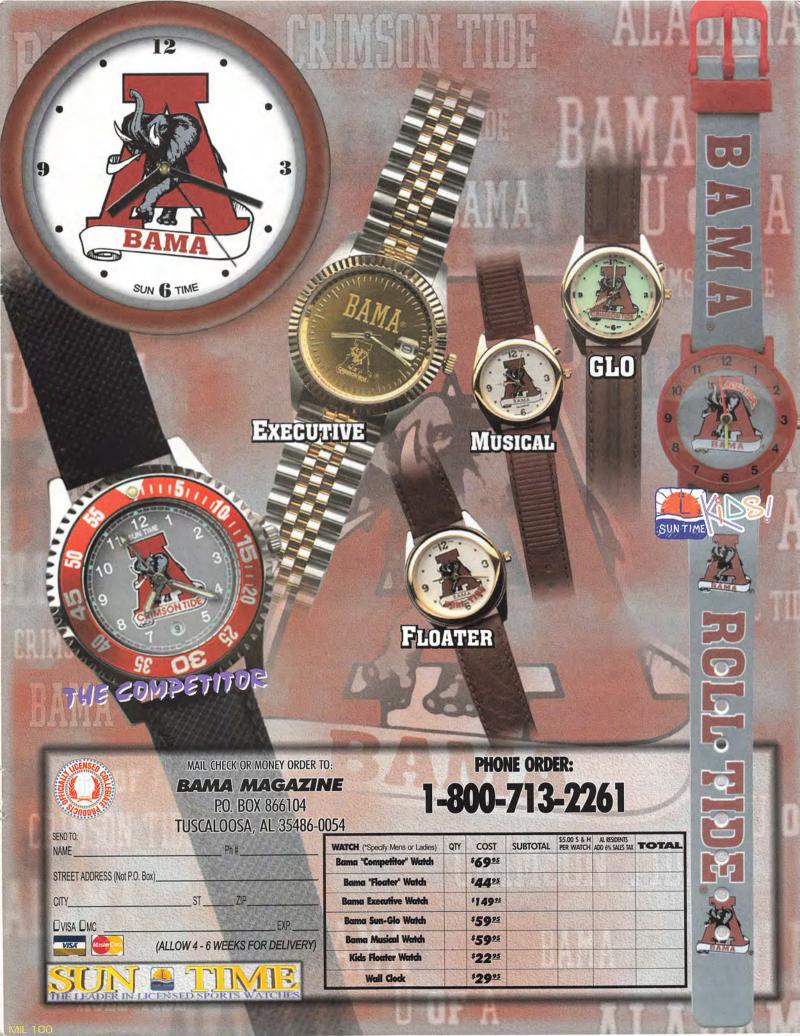


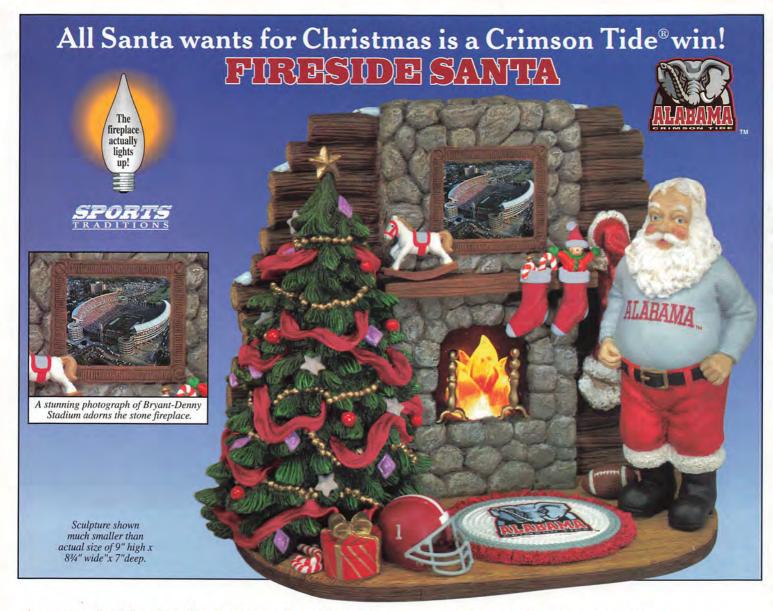












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